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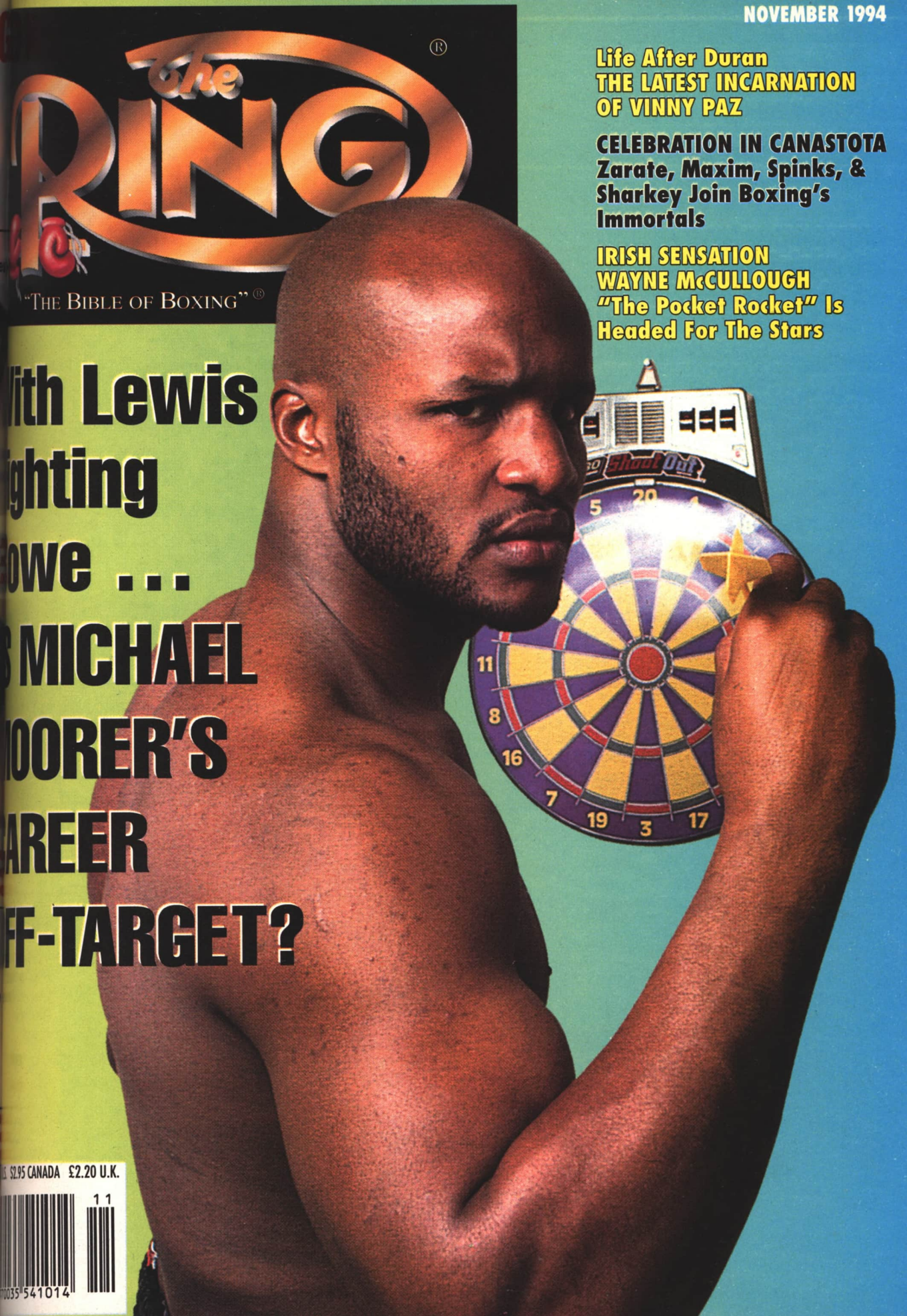

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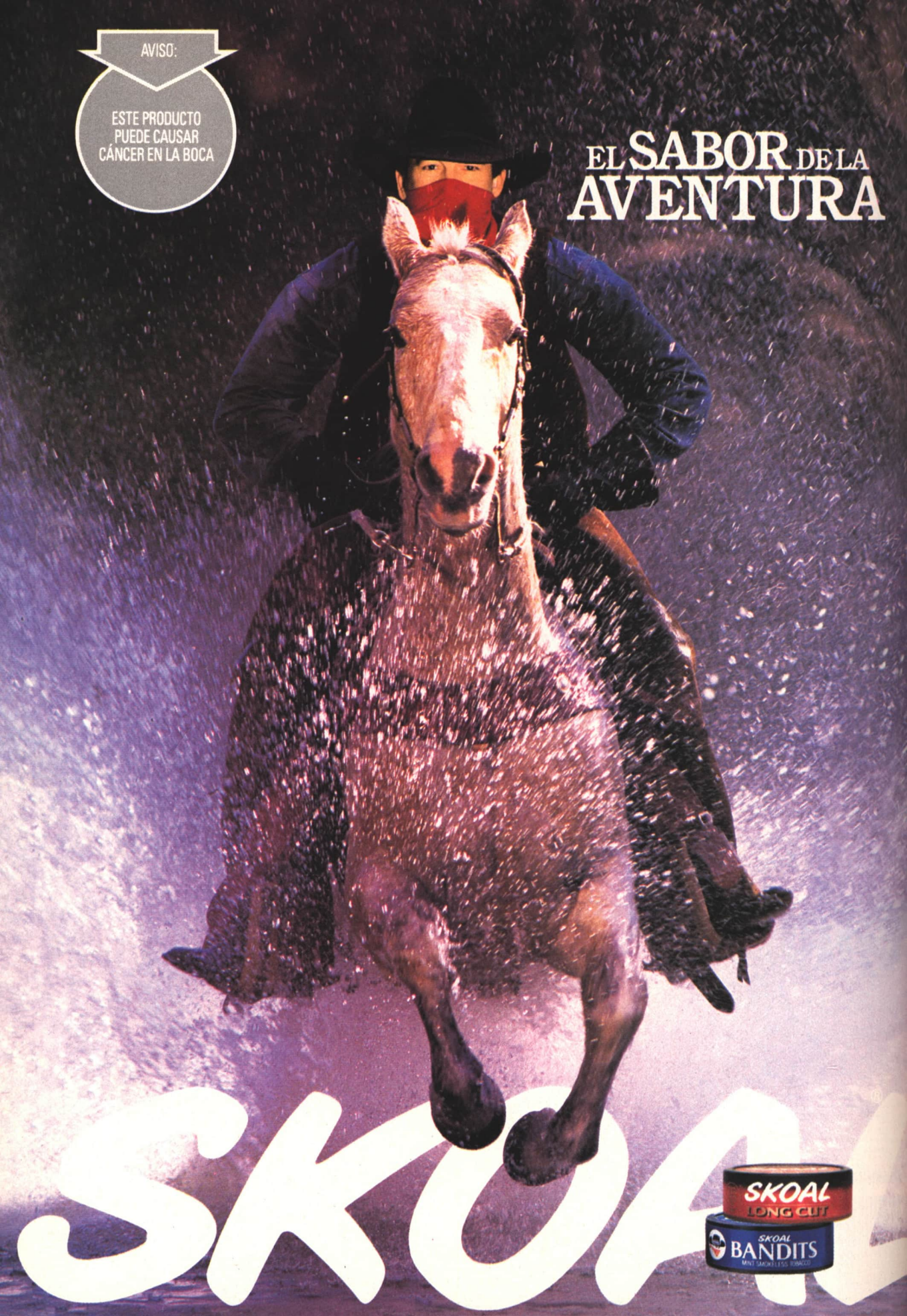
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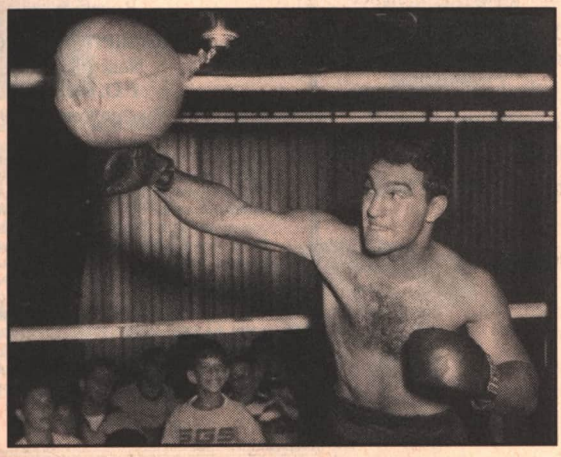

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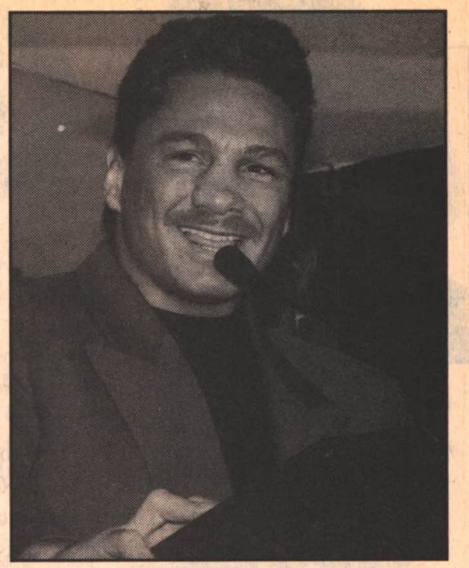

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Ringside

Despite the fact that we didn't mention the O.J. Simpson case once, there's a lot of thought-provoking material in this issue. And they said it couldn't be done.

I've never been sure where to place Rocky Marciano on my list of the greatest heavyweight champions of all-time. You've heard the arguments: The Rock was the only undefeated champion in history, but his biggest wins came against a faded former champ (Ezzard Charles), an old-timer (Jersey Joe Walcott), and a 41-year-old blown-up light heavyweight (Archie Moore). However, after researching all 49 of Marciano's fights for the story that begins on page 22 ("Remembering Rocky Marciano: A Fight-By-Fight Recap Of A Perfect Career"), I have a better handle.

For starters, Marciano's pre-title opposition was nowhere near as soft as I had always believed. Carmine Vingo was 16-1 and, at 6'4", extremely difficult to fight; Roland LaStarza was 37-0 and far more experienced than Marciano; Rex Layne was 34-1-2; and Harry "Kid" Matthews was 78-3-6. Those who dismiss Matthews as a light heavyweight should remember he scaled only 8½ pounds less than Marciano. Furthermore, it's unfair to measure Marciano's battered victims by how they subsequently fared. Few had much fight left in them.

Secondly, Marciano paid a price, at least in terms of image, for winning ugly. Even when he was king, he never entirely lost the rep of being an awkward novice with two left feet. After reading the mostly negative accounts of Marciano's first 35 fights in the *Providence Journal*, I was amazed he made it out of eight-rounders. And for all intent and purpose, the *Journal* was Rocky's hometown paper!

I won't go as far as to say Marciano was better than Jack Johnson, Joe Louis, or Muhammad Ali, but he was perfect, and outside of "Too Tall" Jones, what other heavyweights can make that claim?

***

If you're a regular reader of THE RING, you already know Robert Cassidy is one of the best young boxing writers in the business. The first installment of Cassidy's meticulously researched three-part series on ring injuries, which begins on page 24 ("Injuries In Boxing: Are The Risks Justifiable?"), deals in part with an all-too-familiar subject, the American Medical Association's campaign to abolish boxing.

People in the fight game are often asked to defend the not-always-Sweet Science. Much of what I hear makes me cringe. Those who attempt to downplay the violence ("Boxing is an art form; hurting the opponent with punches is only one route to victory") are presumably too embarrassed to admit the truth. As Cassidy writes, "A boxer's main objective is to achieve victory by hitting his opponent primarily in the head." And those who claim a boxing career produces no long-term effects ("There is no such thing as a punchdrunk fighter") are living in a fantasy world. Dementia Pugilista is a very real disease. Moreover, researchers are just beginning to understand the link between boxing and Alzheimer's disease.

Celebrate boxing, and do so unashamedly. But also acknowledge it for what it is. If you don't, you're only fueling the abolitionists' fire.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 73, No. 11 **November 1994**

THE RING
"The Bible Of Boxing"

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Come Out Writing

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

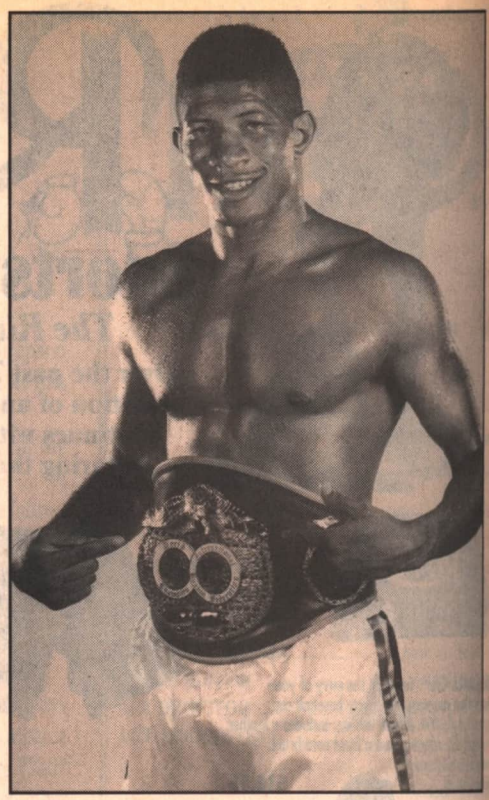
A SIMPLE IDEA

Why is it that every couple of months I hear about a proposed unification match in one weight class or another, only to find that it never happens because of one problem or another (money or promotional concerns, for instance)? Less than 10 years ago, it seemed all the good fighters were facing each other. Now all I hear about are problems.

Here's an idea: Let's say a fighter who is ranked by all three alphabet organizations wins the WBC title. He should then still be ranked by the WBA and IBF. That way, if he keeps winning, he'll eventually qualify for a mandatory shot at those titles. This would produce lots of unified titles and great champions, instead of split titles and good champions.

Then again, maybe this idea is too simple for the sport of boxing.

JEREMY LEETE
Sacramento, CA



IBF cruiser champ Al Cole: Where are the other two belts?

EARNING A FAN'S RESPECT

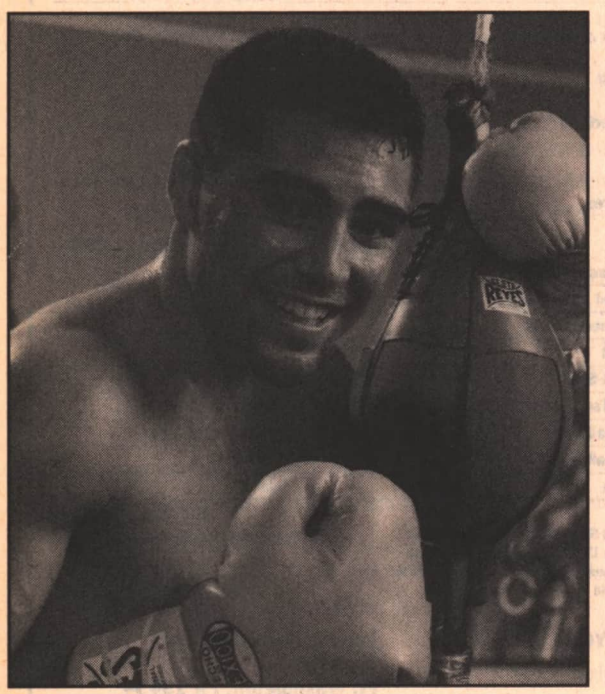


Photo by Brent Cook

Will De La Hoya become another Sugar Ray?

I was never a Sugar Ray Leonard fan. He was the media's golden boy, and it was all too easy for him, instant glory and all that. He had plenty of fans, and he didn't need me. I had more respect for Hagler, Duran, Benitez, etc. But over the years I came to respect Leonard very much. He turned out to be a good, tough fighter and a good champion.

Now Oscar De La Hoya says he wants to be like Sugar Ray. And the media and promoters are swooning at his feet while trying to create another megabucks superstar. Is De La Hoya going to earn my respect? I doubt it. After being extended due to the awkwardness of left-hander Jimmi Bredahl, he demonstrated what he's made of. He said he was never going to fight a southpaw again.

What the hell kind of talk is that? Is this what we want in a champion? If a champion wants my respect, he has to fight the best challenger. Period. Lucky for De La Hoya and his people, one fan's respect isn't worth very much. As long as they keep fooling everyone else, that is.

MIKE FENERTY
Houston, TX

DUCKING BUDDY

I'm tired of listening to Pernell Whitaker's endless whining. He keeps saying he won't fight Buddy McGirt again. If that's the case, we know he won't fight Felix

...ilad or Yori Boy Campas, either. The five reasons Whitaker is ducking ...Girt: 5) He's afraid; 4) He wants to continue the tradition of champions ...ending against washed-up bums; 3) A two-armed McGirt could kayo ...2) He thinks he's special and doesn't want to mess up his pretty face; ...McGirt's name isn't Julio Cesar Chavez.

...M McLEAN
...kford, MI

...YSON WILL BE CROWNED ...GAIN

...totally disagree with Steve Farhood's statements about Mike Tyson in ...e Of The Game: The Mid-Term Report" (August 1994). I can't believe ...w many people don't think "Iron Mike" will do it again. Not only will he ...it again, but he'll regain his status as undisputed world heavyweight ...mpion. None of today's heavyweights have Tyson's heart, guts, or ...ch. Watch him prove he's among the greatest fighters of all-time.

...EN MARSHALL
...dlewood, VA

...IME TO CREDIT JONES

I hope you print this letter in the same issue you finally give Roy Jones ...e credit. In Steve Farhood's editorial in the July 1994 issue, he knocked ...es' opposition. In fact, over the last couple of years, the opposition of ...es Toney has been only marginally better. One of the main reasons both ...es and Toney haven't fought better competition is because a lot of the ...d fighters are promoted by Don King. Jones simply will not sell his soul ...ce a King-promoted fighter.

Now that Jones has easily dispatched of Thomas Tate, I suppose ...yone will say Tate was never that good anyway. Wake up, fight fans: ...en you have the hand speed of a Jones or a Gerald McClellan, you can ...ke respectable fighters look like has-beens in a hurry.

Here's a challenge to all the Toney supporters who say Jones is a joke: ...write in and admit I was wrong if Toney beats Jones. But if Jones beats ...ney, you better be ready to do the same. Jones will make Toney look as ...w as Toney made Iran Barkley look.

See you after Jones stops Toney in seven rounds. Then maybe even ...ve Farhood will be writing a different editorial.

...M TUCK
...ll Breeze, FL

I recently witnessed the annihilation of Thomas "Talk Too Much" Tate ...n "overrated" Roy Jones. Tate talked the talk but couldn't walk the ...k. Remember, this is the same Tate who gave Julian Jackson trouble and ...k the then-champion's best shots. Jones put Tate in Gumbyland in round ..., then rubbed it in with a dance called "The Ride" because Tate had ...wed him no respect.

James Toney is good, but like Jones says, he's just an average puncher. ...en these two get it on, look for the same left hook that blasted out Tate to ...ke out Toney, too.

...EL S. DIAZ
...a Linda, CA

WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

The fifth annual induction weekend at the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York, was a thrilling experience. My odyssey got off to a tremendous start when, on Friday, I met Leon Spinks. He was cruising the museum grounds when I approached. I was hoping for an autograph and a photo opportunity, and he kindly provided both. He was the crowd favorite this year, partly because of his colorful past, but also because of his approachability and genuineness. I didn't see him refuse an autograph in three days.

Spinks was in good company. Ruben Olivares was quick with a smile, and Aaron Pryor impressed fans with his patience and generosity. Our own

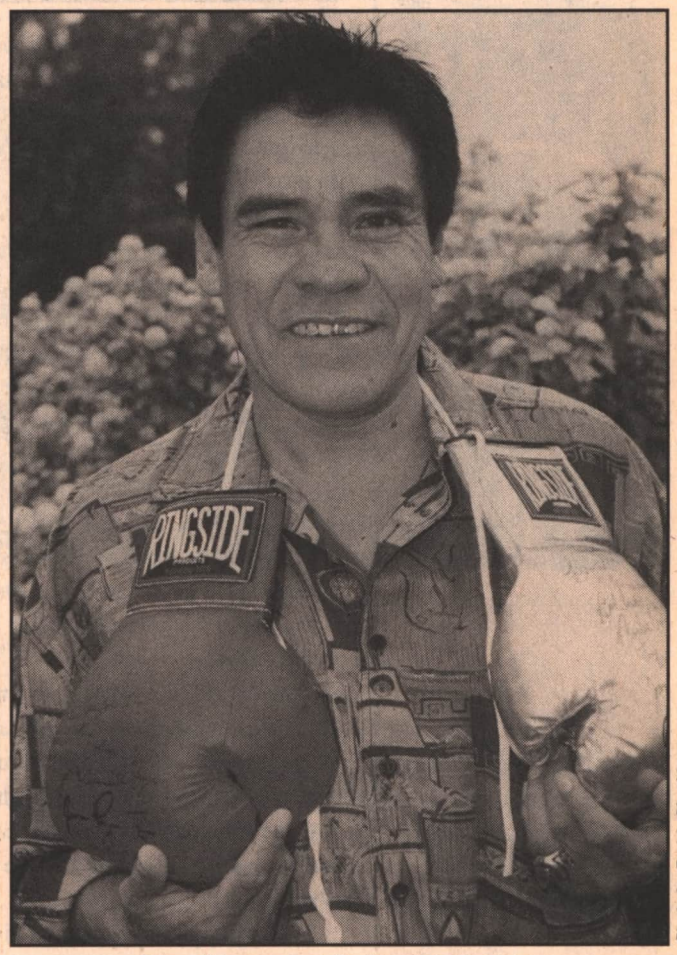


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Ruben Olivares was a fan favorite in Canastota

George Chuvalo gave a touching thank you to the fans and friends who offered support over the last year, during which he suffered family tragedy. And Livingstone Bramble was both articulate and dignified.

When Larry Holmes arrived, he was instantly mobbed by autograph-seekers. He patiently signed all the gloves and photos thrust his way. I even enjoyed a conversation with Carlos Zarate, and while Michael Moorer did his best to appear sullen, I caught his warm grin a few times.

All in all, I was impressed with the hospitality I found in Canastota, and the class of champions it hosted.

ERIC J. MURRAY
Ottawa, Ontario ■

Round One

A COMEBACK FOR A NOBLE CAUSE

Alexis Arguello, age 42, hasn't fought in more than eight years. His comeback was stalled in May, when he broke a rib while sparring. But he remains determined, and now he's aiming for a 10-rounder on August 27.

Arguello's comeback isn't like most others; he's not returning for money or glory. "I do things for a reason," the former triple-crown champion told THE RING from his home in Las Vegas. "I feel good deep in my heart. I want to enhance the development of my country [Nicaragua], and I need the media to tell the world what's going on. I'm coming back for 4½ million people."

The most famous athlete in the history of Nicaragua, Arguello has been involved in the turbulent politics of his homeland since 1979, when the Sandanistas took control. Arguello was on the wrong side of the revolution, and he lost his cars, money, and home.

"Since 1990, it's a new government, but the Sandanistas are still there," Arguello said. "In 1991, the government took money from education and used it for armaments. I want the right thing done with the taxpayers' money. You can't give the money to the politicians. They're a bunch of crooks."

As for the physical aspects of his comeback, Arguello said only those who do the wrong things get hurt. When asked about the minor heart condition that brought his retirement in 1986, he laughed it off and said, "There's nothing wrong with my heart. You can find a doctor who will tell you anything." He plans four or five fights, contested at about 142 pounds, before taking on world-class fighters.

The way Arguello sees it, what's important is not how many people see him fight, but how many listen to him talk.

–Steve Farhood

Photo by Joan Boa Levin

Arguello: Ready to reenter the ring

Photo by Brent Cook

L.A. wars: The Olympic vs. The Forum

DUELING ARENAS

Boxing promoters are universally assailed for picking the pockets of anyone within reach of their designer ballpoint pens. When they recite their own complaints, there's a familiar refrain: There aren't enough fans.

Los Angeles is a case in point. The second-biggest city in America, it boasts of a huge, supposedly boxing-crazy Hispanic population. But L.A. is having big trouble supporting two boxing arenas. Ever since the Grand Olympic reopened its doors in March, it's been suffering. Already Bob Arum's Top Rank, which promotes the Olympic shows, has closed off the utterly unnecessary balcony, reduced bottom-end tickets to a profitless $5 per, and cut the promised two shows a month to one (and still subtracting).

Meanwhile, down the freeway at the Great Western Forum, times aren't so hot, either. The Olympic attracts just enough fans to hurt the Forum, and both insiders and outsiders are wondering how long this can last.

Not long, especially if the venues continue to schedule cards on the same night, which happened on June 24, when Jeremy Williams stopped Bert Cooper at the Olympic and Marco Antonio Barrera knocked out Mike Espinoza at the Forum.

Lots of people suspect the bigger, more established Forum is trying for a quickie kayo of the upstart Olympic. The Forum denies it. "We can't even begin to set our dates until we get the NHL and NBA schedules," says the Forum's John Beyrooty. The Forum chooses its boxing nights from the leftovers of the Kings and Lakers, who have first claim at the building.

Arum says the schedule is determined by television. "We're very good friends," he says of the Forum.

The Olympic expected to draw enough of a crowd to turn a profit without television. "But the economics is, you can't really do a non-TV event," said a sadder, wiser Todd DuBoef at the Olympic. Now the Olympic depends on ESPN to pay the bills, while the Forum limps along with support from Prime Ticket.

In the head-to-head matchup on June 24, the Forum claimed 3,800 fans, the Olympic 2,300. In other words, there were thousands of empty seats in both places.

–Ivan G. Goldman

WHERE "THE BLACK PRINCE" RESTS

Down Under, they didn't forget Peter Jackson

Among the first great black fighters, Peter Jackson is best remembered for his epic 61-round no-contest with James J. Corbett in 1891. More than 70 years ago, A.G. Hales wrote *Black Prince Peter*, a romanticized biography of Jackson. Since then, the fighter has been recalled only by ring historians.

Even in Jackson's adopted homeland of Australia, few know of his final resting place. When Jackson died in 1900, his admirers erected an impressive monument in Toowong Cemetery. Today, the once-quiet area is part of metropolitan Brisbane. Fifty yards beyond an eight-foot-high wrought-iron fence bordering busy Frederich Road stands a seven-foot high by four-feet wide stone edifice that has weathered with grace. The front facing has a white marble carving of the head and shoulders of Jackson in formal dress. To each side are inscriptions commemorating the fighter and man. One phrase, "This Was A Man," speaks volumes about what his neighbors and fans thought of the man who rests there.

–Bruce Gordon

BUSTER DOUGLAS' BIGGEST BATTLE

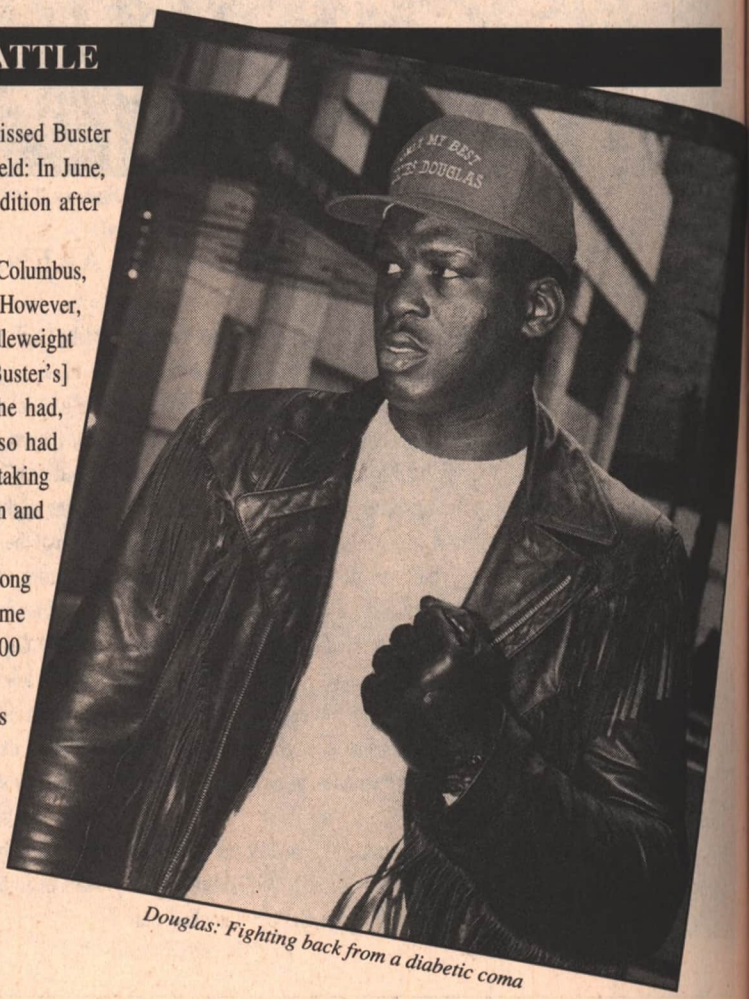
The news hit hard, perhaps because we so easily dismissed Buster Douglas after he lost the heavyweight title to Evander Holyfield: In June, the former heavyweight champion was listed in stable condition after reportedly recovering from a diabetic coma.

According to a spokeswoman at Grant Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio, Douglas' family requested no information be released. However, Billy Douglas, Buster's father and a former world-class middleweight and light heavyweight, told the New York *Daily News*, "[Buster's] sugar count was way up. It's something he didn't know he had, diabetes. This caught him by a big surprise. I think it also had something to do with a reaction from some medicine he was taking for a sinus infection. But they got the sugar count down again and he's conscious. He's going to be all right."

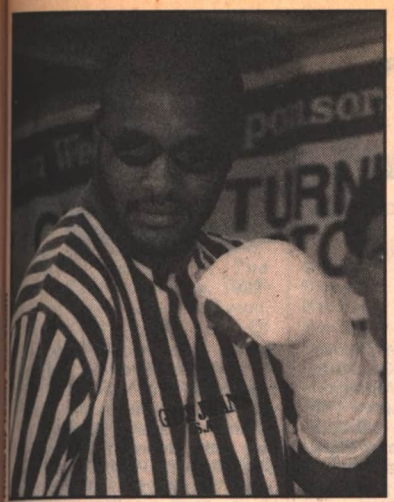
A diabetic coma can be triggered by excessive weight, among other factors. It's been reported that Douglas, whose prime fighting weight was 230 pounds, scales as much as 350-400 pounds.

Since losing to Holyfield in October 1990, Douglas has spent most of his time in Florida.

"You know, most people think money brings you happiness," J.D. McCauley, Douglas' uncle and former trainer, told *The Philadelphia Daily News*. "But he was not very happy."



Douglas: Fighting back from a diabetic coma



Wearing a cast, Moorer's particularly dangerous

THE 10 *REAL* REASONS RIDDICK BOWE AGREED TO FIGHT LENNOX LEWIS

10. He's down to his last $15-million.

9. Lewis' camp threatened to release photos of Rock Newman embracing Jose Sulaiman.

8. He found out he was scheduled to fight Buster Mathis *Junior*.

7. Hefty Bags will pay him $1-million if this time he throws the WBC belt into a garbage can lined with their product.

6. If he wins, Lewis has agreed to let him tuck the gold medal under his pillow for one night.

5. He was scared Michael Moorer would hit him with that huge cast.

4. Michael Dokes is unavailable; he has the title role in an action-adventure film, *The Incredible Expanding Man*.

3. He was duped; during negotiations, Lewis disguised his voice as Frank Bruno.

2. Lewis agreed that since he's British, he'll fall down at least twice.

1. A World Wrestling Federation steel cage match fell through when opponent Yokozuna insisted Newman be banned from ringside.

THE PUNCHLINE

Former heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield, who insists his heart problem is healed: "I'm going to fight. I've prayed on it for a long time, and if God healed me, what's the point in sitting?"

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Heavyweight contender **Tommy Morrison** can't seem to confine his fighting to the ring. In June, "The Duke" was arrested in Kansas City for allegedly punching a man outside police headquarters while Morrison was posting bond for a friend. Morrison was charged with non-aggravated assault ... In June, British manager **Phil Martin** died of cancer in Manchester, England. He was 44. At one point, Martin handled four British champions (**Maurice Core**, **Paul Burke**, **Frank Grant**, and **Carl Thompson**).

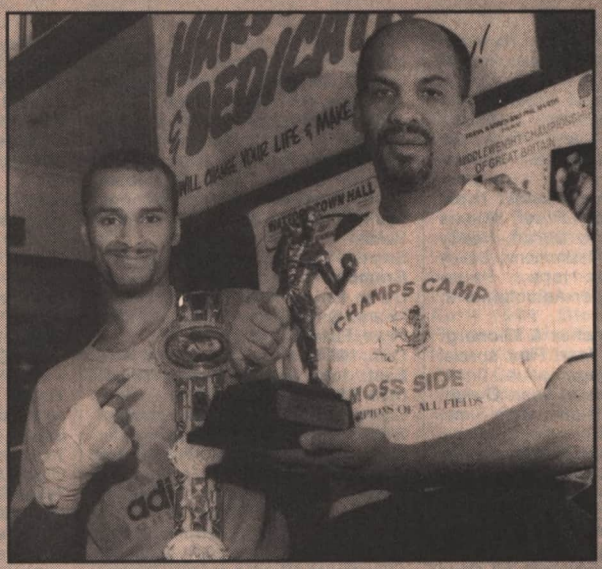
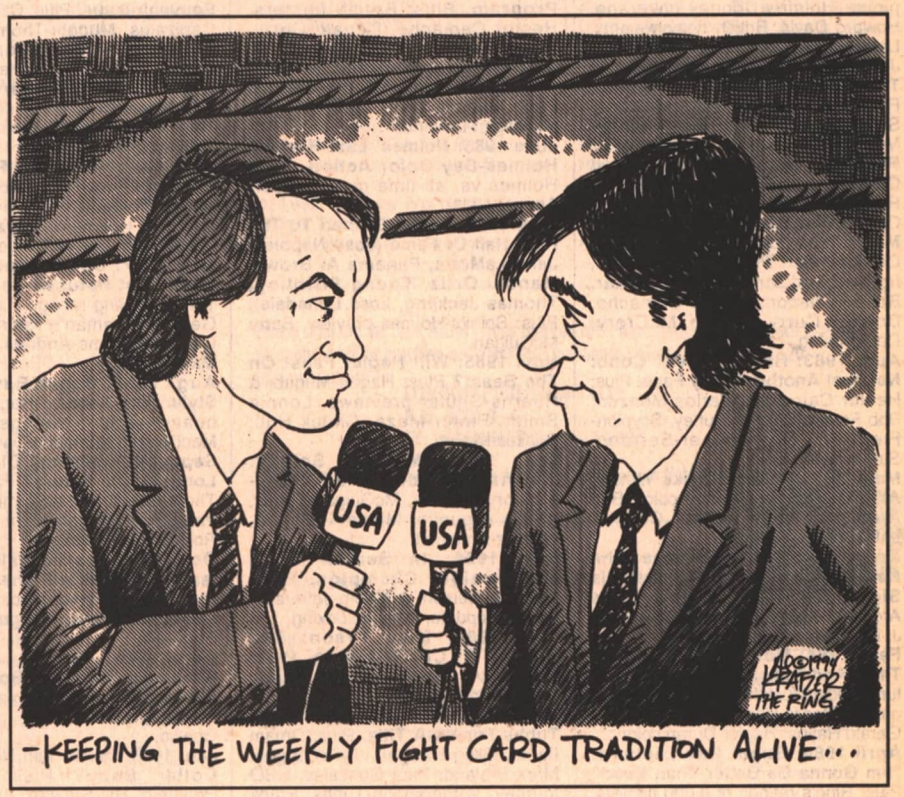


Photo by Harry Goodwin

Paul Burke and Phil Martin

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



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Aug. 1981: Wilfred Benitez: Triple Crown Champ. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Roberto Duran, Henry Armstrong, Bob Fitzsimmons, Davey Moore, Benitez-Hope, Page-Evangelista, Hagler-Antuofermo II, Hamsho-Minter.

March 1982: Sanchez & Leonard: Fighters Of The Year! Plus: special year-end 100-page issue, fight, round, and upsets of year, Dwight Braxton, Benitez-Duran, Czyz-Sims, Pedroza-LaPorte.

May 1982: Marvin Hagler: Is He The Greatest Middleweight Champ Ever? Plus: Salvador Sanchez, southpaw boxers, Fletcher-Braxton, Arguello-Busceme, Primo Carnera, Max Baer.

July 1982: Leonard: Is It All Over For Sugar Ray? Plus: Ray and Lenny Mancini, Greg Page, James Kinchen, Coetzee-LeDoux, first-round knockouts, Jack Johnson, Tony Canzoneri.

Aug. 1982: Cooney: Is He The Real McCoy? Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard pinup, Holmes-Cooney coverage, Howard Davis, British heavyweights, Larry Holmes, Limon-Navarette.

Jan. 1983: Pryor-Arguello: Fight Of The Year. Plus: Frank "Animal" Fletcher, Dwight Braxton-Michael Spinks preview, ring deaths, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Ray Mancini, Bum of the Month Club, Chacon-Limon.

March 1983: Larry Holmes: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: year in review, fight, round, and upsets of year, Bobby Chacon, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Milton McCrory, Duran-Laing.

April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Carlos Monzon, Bob Foster, Charley Burley, Scypion-Fletcher, Mayweather-Serrano, Stanley Ketchel.

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Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: Ring's ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

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Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

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April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

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Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, *Raging Bull II.*

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

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June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

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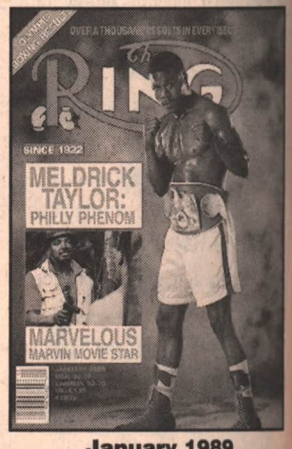
Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.



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Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

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July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, overrated and underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

Feb. 1992: 70th Anniversary Collector's Edition: Through The Decades With "The Bible Of Boxing." Plus: Nat Fleischer, Jeff Harding, Whitaker-Paez, Tatsuyoshi-Richardson.

March 1992: Turning Heads-Ray Mercer Makes His Statement To The Heavyweights. Plus: Lou Nova, 1980 Olympic team, boxing cards, Rodrigo Valdes, *Ring's* New Year's wish, Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali, Jack Dempsey (color).

April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top? Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).

May 1992: Fighter Of The Year: James Toney. Plus: Roy Jones, Rocky Graziano, longest title reigns, Myung Woo Yuh & Khaosai Galaxy, James Warring, Billy Soose, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

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July 1993: Pernell Whitaker Asks, "Who's Number One Now, Julio?" Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez, RIchard Steele, The Brawl at the Great Wall, Michael Moorer, Chavez-Haugen (color).

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Jan. 1994: Was Pernell Whitaker Robbed In San Antonio? Plus: Azumah Nelson, Willis Britt, State of the Game.

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The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended
July 8, 1994

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Nate Miller

Jeff Harding

Vinny Pazienza

Genaro Hernandez

Azumah Nelson

Orlando Canizales

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **MICHAEL MOORER**
   Detroit, MI *35-0 (WBA & IBF Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS**
   England *25-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **RIDDICK BOWE**
   Fort Washington, MD *34-1*
4. **OLIVER McCALL**
   Chicago, IL *24-5*
5. **RAZOR RUDDOCK**
   Ft. Lauderdale, FL *29-4-1*
6. **HERBIE HIDE**
   England *26-0*
7. **LARRY HOLMES**
   Easton, PA *60-4*
8. **LARRY DONALD**
   Cincinnati, OH *16-0*
9. **LIONEL BUTLER**
   Houston, TX *22-10-1*
10. **TOMMY MORRISON**
    Jay, OK *42-2*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ORLIN NORRIS**
   Campo, CA *41-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **AL COLE**
   Spring Valley, NY *24-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **ANACLET WAMBA**
   France *40-2 (WBC Champ)*
4. **BOBBY CZYZ**
   Montgomery, NJ *42-5*
5. **THOMAS HEARNS**
   Detroit, MI *53-4-1*
6. **NATE MILLER**
   Philadelphia, PA *23-3*
7. **SERGEI KOBOZEV**
   Brooklyn, NY *18-0*
8. **CARL THOMPSON**
   England *16-3*
9. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS**
   Las Vegas, NV *21-3-1*
10. **NORBERT EKASSI**
    France *20-4-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL**
   Bismarck, ND *38-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **HENRY MASKE**
   Germany *24-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **MIKE McCALLUM**
   Brooklyn, NY *46-2-1*
4. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
   Mansfield, OH *36-5-2*
5. **LEEONZER BARBER**
   Detroit, MI *19-1*
6. **JEFF HARDING**
   Australia *23-1 (WBC Champ)*
7. **FABRICE TIOZZO**
   France *28-12*
8. **EGERTON MARCUS**
   Canada *13-0*
9. **FRANK TATE**
   Houston, TX *35-3*
10. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI**
    Germany *23-0*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **JAMES TONEY**
   Ann Arbor, MI *43-0-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NIGEL BENN**
   England *35-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **CHRIS EUBANK**
   England *38-0-1*
4. **STEVE LITTLE**
   Reading, PA *22-13-2 (WBA Champ)*
5. **MICHAEL NUNN**
   Davenport, IA *42-2*
6. **FRANK LILES**
   N. Hollywood, CA *25-1*
7. **VINNY PAZIENZA**
   Cranston, RI *38-5*
8. **TONY THORNTON**
   Glassboro, NJ *32-6-1*
9. **TIM LITTLES**
   Flint, MI *23-1*
10. **RAY CLOSE**
    N. Ireland *20-3-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **ROY JONES**
   Pensacola, FL *26-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **GERALD McCLELLAN**
   Freeport, IL *31-2 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON**
   Seattle, WA *31-0*
4. **REGGIE JOHNSON**
   Houston, TX *35-3-1*
5. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Philadelphia, PA *26-2*
6. **LAMAR PARKS**
   Greeneville, SC *27-1*
7. **JULIAN JACKSON**
   Virgin Islands *49-3*
8. **QUINCY TAYLOR**
   Dallas, TX *22-3*
9. **THOMAS TATE**
   Houston, TX *30-3*
10. **STEVE COLLINS**
    Ireland *28-3*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *38-4 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *50-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **GIANFRANCO ROSI**
   Italy *57-3-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **SIMON BROWN**
   Mount Airy, MD *41-3*
5. **VERNO PHILLIPS**
   New York, NY *20-5*
6. **JULIO CESAR GREEN**
   Brooklyn, NY *17-1*
7. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO *30-1*
8. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *25-0*
9. **JAVIER CASTILLEJO**
   Spain *34-2*
10. **TONY MARSHALL**
    Albany, NY *16-3-5*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *33-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *23-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *26-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **BUDDY McGIRT**
   Hauppauge, NY *63-3-1*
5. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *55-0*
6. **CRISANTO ESPANA**
   N. Ireland *30-1*
7. **ANTHONY JONES**
   Detroit, MI *34-5-1*
8. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *17-0-1*
9. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *30-0*
10. **LARRY BARNES**
    Mt. Vernon, NY *32-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH *49-3-1*
2. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *90-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JAKE RODRIGUEZ**
   Brentwood, NY *25-2-2 (IBF Champ)*
4. **JUAN COGGI**
   Argentina *66-2-2 (WBA Champ)*
5. **ZACK PADILLA**
   Azusa, CA *21-1-1*
6. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *12-0*
7. **TONY LOPEZ**
   Sacramento, CA *45-4-1*
8. **CHARLES MURRAY**
   Rochester, NY *31-2*
9. **DAVID KAMAU**
   Los Angeles, CA *23-0*
10. **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
    Miami, FL *35-19-4*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *31-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *41-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **NAZAROV OLZUBEK**
   Japan *20-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
   Atlantic City, NJ *22-0-1*
5. **JOEY GAMACHE**
   Lewiston, ME *35-1*
6. **MIGUEL JULIO**
   Colombia *25-1-1*
7. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *12-0*
8. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *10-0*
9. **RAMON MARCHENA**
   Mexico *50-11-2*
10. **BILLY SCHWER**
    England *25-1*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA**
   San Antonio, TX *28-0-2 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *35-3 (IBF Champ)*
3. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *30-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *36-3-2*
5. **CALVIN GROVE**
   Coatesville, PA *46-5*
6. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *38-2*
7. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Montebello, CA *13-0*
8. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *17-1*
9. **VICTOR HUGO PAZ**
   Argentina *45-1-1*
10. **ED HOPSON**
    St. Louis, MO *23-0*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY *39-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *36-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **ELOY ROJAS**
   Venezuela *28-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **YUNG KYUN PARK**
   South Korea *26-2-1*
5. **STEVE ROBINSON**
   Wales *18-9-1*
6. **GOYO VARGAS**
   Mexico *30-5-1*
7. **MIGUEL ARROZAL**
   Portland, OR *39-1*
8. **ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *30-2-2*
9. **FRANCISCO SEGURA**
   Coachella, CA *24-6-1*
10. **ORLANDO SOTO**
    Panama *22-1*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Las Vegas, NV *27-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *50-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **WILFREDO VASQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico *40-6-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JULIO GERVACIO**
   Puerto Rico *29-3-2*
5. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *33-2*
6. **JESUS SALUD**
   San Diego, CA *48-6*
7. **CESAR SOTO**
   Mexico *38-5-2*
8. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY *33-1*
9. **MAUI DIAZ**
   San Jose, CA *26-1*
10. **JOSE BADILLO**
    Puerto Rico *14-0*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX *37-1-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **YASUEI YAKUSHIJI**
   Japan *21-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOHN MICHAEL JOHNSON**
   San Antonio, TX *18-4 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *25-1*
5. **JUNG IL BYUN**
   South Korea *10-1*
6. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *13-0*
7. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
   Japan *10-1-1*
8. **RAFAEL DEL VALLE**
   Puerto Rico *15-0*
9. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *12-0*
10. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
    Mexico *31-0*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **JULIO BORBOA**
   Mexico *23-4 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KATSUYA ONIZUKA**
   Japan *23-0 (WBA Champ)*
3. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA**
   Japan *14-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **SUNG KIL MOON**
   South Korea *20-2*
5. **KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM**
   Thailand *47-4*
6. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *26-0-1*
7. **JOHNNY BREDAHL**
   Denmark *21-0*
8. **CARLOS SALAZAR**
   Argentina *30-4-3*
9. **CECILIO ESPINO**
   Huntington Park, CA *28-3-1*
10. **KOTARO HAYASHI**
    Japan *12-3*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *18-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **SAN SOW PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *19-0 (WBA Champ)*
3. **PHICHIT SITHBANGPRACHAN**
   Thailand *18-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO**
   Blythe, CA *36-4-1*
5. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *20-1*
6. **DAVID GRIMAN**
   Venezuela *17-1*
7. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM *16-0*
8. **JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA**
   Mexico *23-12-2*
9. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
   Mexico *27-3-1*
10. **ROBBIE REGAN**
    Wales *13-1-3*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *38-2 (WBC/IBF Champ)*
2. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *30-1*
3. **LEO GAMEZ**
   Venezuela *25-3-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *38-4-3*
5. **ERIC GRIFFIN**
   Jasper, TN *13-1*
6. **JESUS CHONG**
   Mexico *23-5*
7. **LEON SALAZAR**
   Panama *15-3-1*
8. **JOSE DeJESUS**
   Puerto Rico *26-2-1*
9. **FAHLAN SAKKIRIN**
   Thailand *26-2-1*
10. **ROBINSON CUESTA**
    Panama *23-1*

POUND FOR POUND

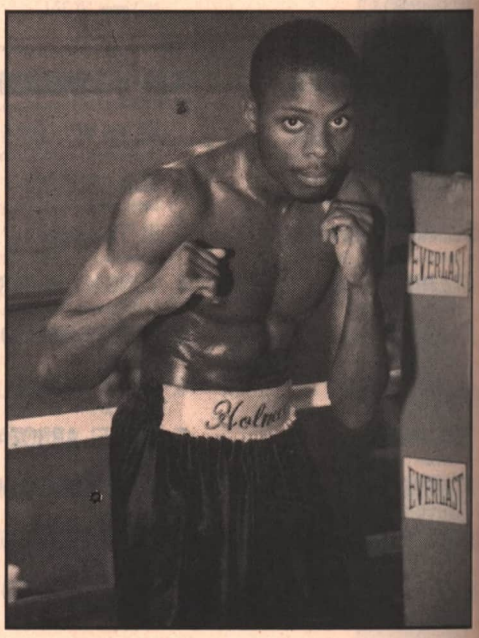
1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
2. **JAMES TONEY**
   Super Middleweight
3. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Bantamweight
4. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
5. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ**
   Junior Flyweight
6. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Junior Flyweight
7. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Junior Featherweight
8. **ROY JONES**
   Middleweight
9. **GERALD McCLELLAN**
   Middleweight
10. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
    Junior Welterweight

New Faces

Keith Holmes

Welterweight

By John Scheinman



Upon traveling to Virginia, Kelcie Banks made a big mistake. In the days before his fight with welterweight Keith Holmes, Banks brashly told a local reporter, "I'm gonna knock this punk out."

One thing any good coach will tell you: Don't feed the other guy's fire by letting him turn press clippings into a motivational tool. But Banks, a 1988 Olympian with a 22-4 pro record, obviously didn't know much about Holmes—and didn't care.

Holmes cared.

"That was a poor prediction," he said with a smile in the upstairs office of the Satellite Boxing gym in Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia. "He was only making it worse for himself because I was going to come down hard on him."

If boxers in the welterweight division don't know of Holmes, they'd be wise to learn from Banks' mistake and do some homework. In a jam-packed bingo hall behind a shopping center in Annandale, Virginia, Holmes went at Banks with unbridled ferocity. Two-and-a-half rounds later, an incoherent Banks lay along the ropes, his head violently jolting back in the direction of the crowd. The referee couldn't have stepped in at a better time.

With the victory, Holmes, who learned his fighting in a nightmarish neighborhood in Washington, D.C., improved to 21-1 (13). He also moved up to number 11 in the IBF ratings. His management team at Satellite, a fast-rising outfit that also handles Andrew Maynard, Darryl Lattimore, and young heavyweight Albert Williams, believes Holmes, 25, is ready for anyone in the world. But it's not easy getting fights for a 6'2", left-handed 147-pounder.

"I think right now we'd beat [IBF champion] Felix Trinidad," said Satellite owner Wade Keel, Holmes' cigar-chomping manager and trainer. "I'm serious. There's not a guy who wants it as bad as he does."

Satellite, which also promotes shows, has to pay opponents extra dollars to face Holmes. And, according to keel, the ranked fighters he has gone after—Larry Barnes, David Gonzalez, Anthony Stephens—don't want anything to do with Holmes for the $3,500-$6,000 he is able to offer. With Banks, Keel just got lucky.

Holmes' development into a world-class boxer

(Continued on page 54)

PRO RECORD

1989		
Oct. 26	Kilpatrick Mitchell, Atlantic City	W 4
Nov. 15	Roland Jones, Glen Burnie, MD	KO 2
1990		
Feb. 10	Jerome Washington, Washington, D.C.	KO 1
April 3	Drew Hayes, Philadelphia	W 4
May 17	Anthony Green, Philadelphia	W 6
June 1	Tom Alexander, Baltimore	W 6
June 15	Anthony Ross, Washington, D.C.	W 6
July 20	Ron Hammond, Philadelphia	L 6
1991		
April 10	Jose Torres, Lanham, MD	KO 6
1993		
Aug. 14	Horace Watterson, Falls Church, VA	W 6
Sept. 4	Lennell Strohman, Forest City, NC	KO 1
Sept. 25	Nick Parker, Erie, PA	KO 6
Oct. 8	Ralph Southerland, Charlotte	KO 1
Oct. 14	Kimara Davis, Richmond	KO 1
Nov. 12	Harold Bennett, Richmond	KO 3
Dec. 2	Reggie Strickland, Louisville	W 8
Dec. 7	Jim Jackson, New Albany, IN	KO 1
1994		
Jan. 27	Jeff Johnson, Annandale, VA	W 12
March 16	Robert Hightower, Raleigh, NC	KO 1
April 2	Sam Gervins, Richmond	KO 2
April 8	Luis Castillo, Upper Marlboro, MD	KO 2
May 11	Kelcie Banks, Annandale	KO 3

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	22	21	1	0	13

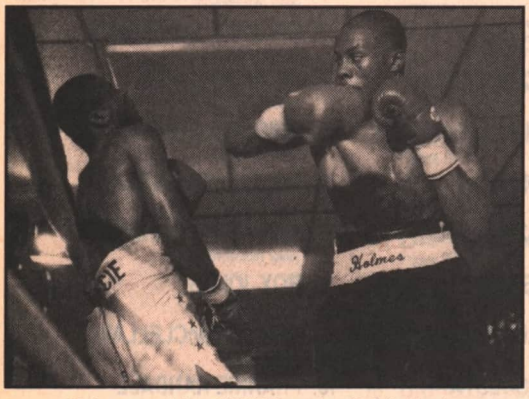


Photo by Sue Muniak

Holmes punishes 1988 Olympian Kelcie Banks

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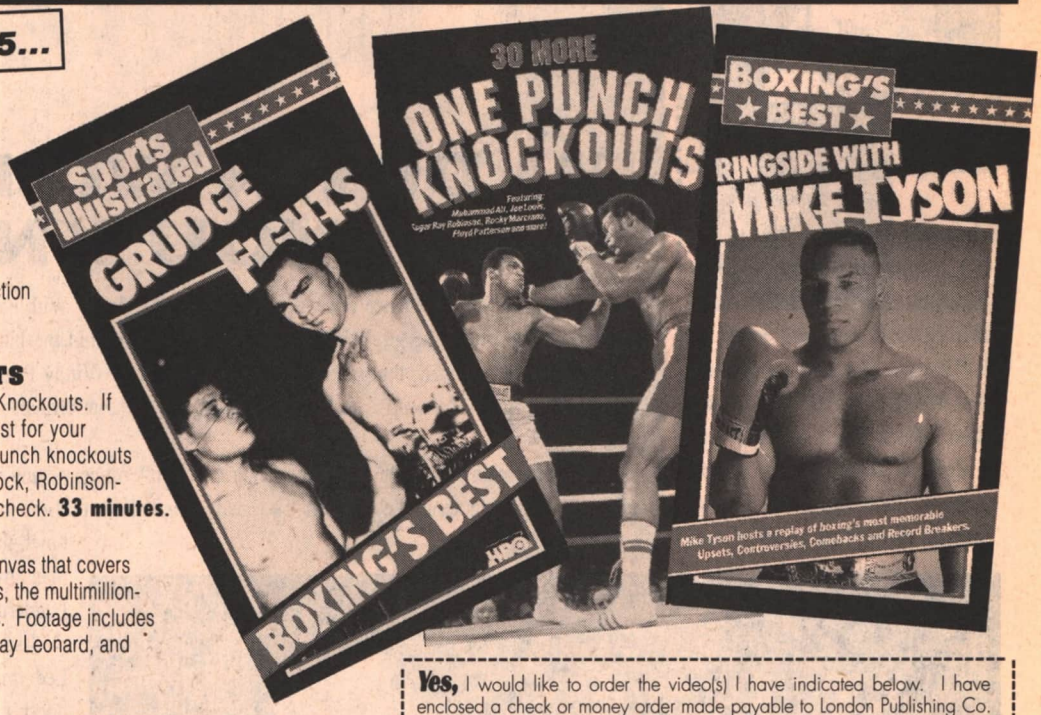

UDGE FIGHTS
greatest grudge fights in boxing history presented in this non-stop action video. Jack Dempsey try to regain the title from Tunney and Joe Louis seek revenge Max Schmeling. Watch Joe Walcott Ezzard Charles and Rocky Marciano in wars, the Ali Frazier trilogy, plus a collection footage that recounts boxing's most orable bouts. **58 minutes.**

RE ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS
exciting followup to Great One-Punch Knockouts. If ke knockout action, this video is a must for your ction. You'll see these fantastic one-punch knockouts many more: Ali-Liston II, Louis-Braddock, Robinson- er, Patterson-Johansson II, Louis-Paycheck. **33 minutes.**

NGSIDE WITH MIKE TYSON
e Tyson puts it all together in a colorful canvas that covers main events, the controversies, the upsets, the multimillion- r gates, the records, and the comebacks. Footage includes ny Liston, Jake LaMotta, Ray Robinson, Ray Leonard, and more. **44 minutes.**

E MIDDLEWEIGHTS
most skillful and devastating middleweights in the history of boxing are profiled in this oving video. Watch stellar performances by Stanley Ketchel, Sugar Ray Robinson, and Marcel ttet. Also includes Rocky Graziano, Jake LaMotta, Carlos Monzon, and many others. Hosted by Gowdy and Floyd Patterson. **58 minutes.**

XING'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS
wits with the Boxing Writers of America as they choose the best fighter of all-time from each son and then debate who deserves the title of the Greatest Fighter of All-Time. Includes explosive footage of Henry Armstrong, Benny Leonard, and Roberto Duran in the lightweight division; weights Barney Ross, Henry Armstrong, and Ray Robinson; middleweights Mickey Walker, os Monzon, and Ray Robinson; light heavyweights Bob Fitzsimmons, Billy Conn, and Archie re; heavyweights Muhammad Ali, Rocky Marciano, and Joe Louis. **60 minutes.**

E HEAVYWEIGHTS: "THE BIG PUNCHERS"
biggest draw in sports today is the heavyweight knockout artist. This hard-hitting video explores ng's most famous punchers. A sample of the action included in this video are clips of Dempsey's ge victory over Willard, the second Louis-Schmeling fight, Marciano vs. Walcott, and Frazier vs. **59 minutes.**

EAT ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS
ve got a ringside seat for a heart-stopping lineup of boxing's most exciting knockouts, uding Muhammad Ali-George Foreman, Ezzard Charles-Joe Walcott, Jim Corbett-Bob simmons, Rocky Marciano-Joe Walcott, Sugar Ray Robinson-Rocky Graziano, and many re. **30 minutes.**

E HEAVYWEIGHTS: THE STYLISTS
Curt Gowdy highlights the careers of the sport's finest boxers. Beginning with Jim Corbett, you'll challengers throughout history battle in some of the most striking film coverage ever assembled. Johnson displays exquisite defensive skills, Floyd Patterson shows off his peek-a-boo style, Gene ney demonstrates the scientific approach to boxing, and Muhammad Ali exhibits the skills that de him "The Greatest," plus Walcott, Charles, and Louis. **57 minutes.**

YSON AND THE HEAVYWEIGHTS
Mike Tyson as he takes a tour through the history of the heavyweight division. Tyson adds own insight as he analyzes the styles and lives of the men who wore the heavyweight crown ore him. This fantastic video includes rare footage of Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe s, Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, and, of course, Tyson himself. **51 minutes.**

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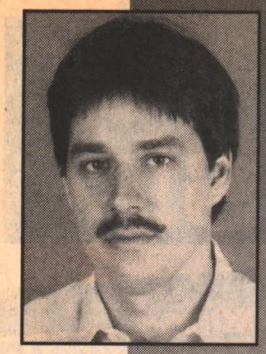


Ryan Out Loud

By Jeff Ryan

I'M DOWN WITH PPV, YEAH, YOU KNOW ME

The pay-per-view audience is always a tough one to please. With only a limited number of PPV dollars to spend every so often, the guy with the remote in one hand and the bag of Doritos in the other demands his money's worth. After all, that same $24.95 he spent on the Vinny Pazienza-Roberto Duran card would have bought *Sister Act 2*, *Robocop 3*, *Police Academy 4*, *and* the quarterfinals of the 1994 Ft. Lauderdale Wet T-Shirt Open.

In the aftermath of Paz-Duran, I am hearing the cry of "robbery," and it has nothing to do with notorious poor sport Duran griping about the decision. Too many people have told me they think they flushed $24.95 down the bowl, that the telecast was an even bigger bust than anything on display at the quarterfinals in Lauderdale. Nonsense, I say. That was money well-spent. In fact, TVKO announcer Harold Lederman was probably right when he said, "It doesn't get any better than this."

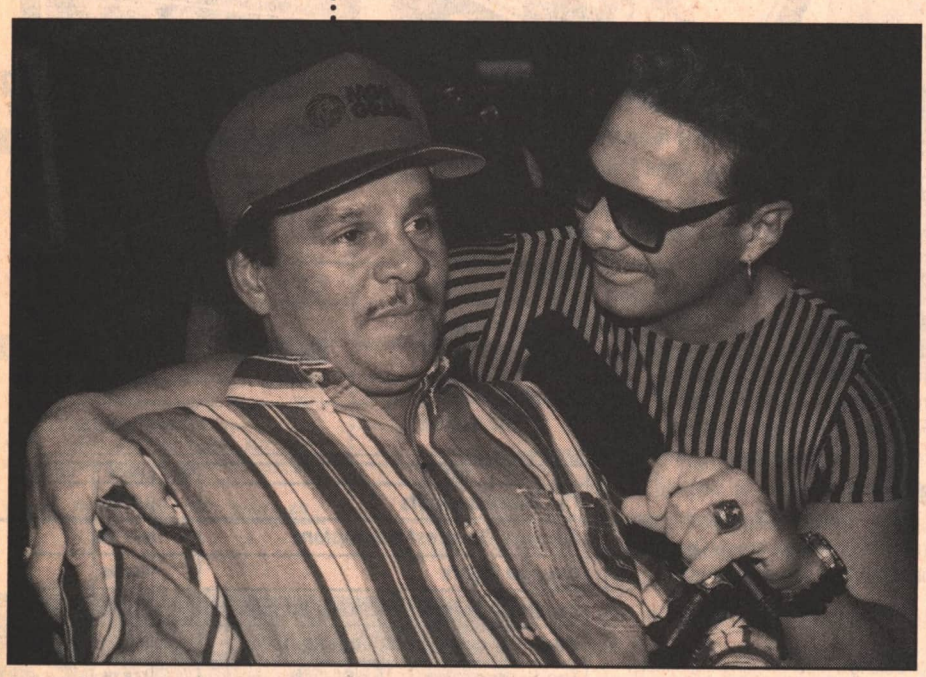


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Judging by columnist Ryan's reaction to the broadcast team of Brown, Mancini, and Lederman, TVKO would have been better off allowing Duran and Pazienza to handle not only the fighting, but the announcing, too.

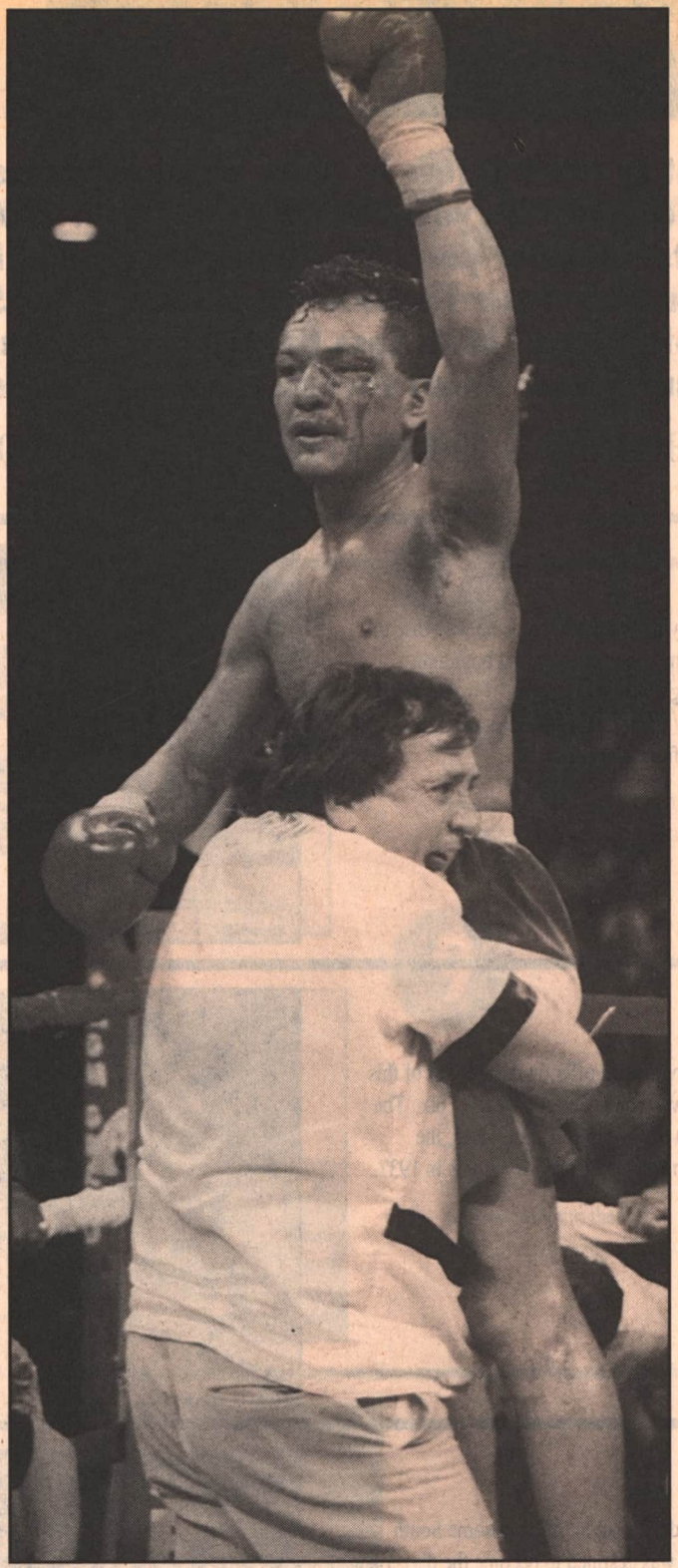
Tell 'em, Harold. The entire Paz-Duran experience was the bargain of the century. A mere $24.95 (and an extra 50 cents for a newspaper on the morning of the fight), bought *all of this*:

Historical perspective: Angelo Pazienza, Vinny's dad, was quoted in the New York *Daily News* as saying, "My son would've kicked Robinson's butt up and down the street." Believe it or not, the Robinson Mr. Paz was referring to wasn't Edward G., Brooks, or Vicki Sue. It was *Sugar Ray*.

Magic tricks: Siegfried and Roy are amateurs compared to manager Bill Cayton, who worked some real magic when discussing his own white tiger in the papers. Abracadabra—Cayton actually made his fighter's five career losses disappear! Though Paz entered the bout with a record of 37-5, Cayton declared that Pazienza, like Rocky Marciano, would retire undefeated. Cayton's next dazzling trick will be downright Houdini-like: He'll attempt to free himself from his brain-lock.

Expert analysis: When those broadcasting school commercials tell you *anyone* can grow up to be a professional announcer, believe them. The men in the blazers for this night's festivities were "The Godfather Of Shill," James Brown, Ray "Verbal Boo-Boo" Mancini, and Lederman, whose role was to serve as a sort of poor man's Larry Merchant. Lederman, who works as the "unofficial official," regularly registers somewhere between Letterman and The Lettermen on the senses-assault meter.

Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"



Sporting a Hulk Hogan-like slice at the corner of his left eye, TKO winner Tony Lopez celebrates his undercard victory over Greg Haugen. For $24.95, PPV fans were treated to boxing, wrestling, and good, old-fashioned theater.

Listening to The Shill, the shrill, and the ex-champ who needed to take a chill pill, it wasn't clear if these guys was tryin' ta recapture da spirit of da Friday Night Fights or *Saturday Night Fever*. "He ain't throwin' us he's got a lotta legs; he ain't movin' at all in there," Lederman said of Duran. Between rounds, Mancini described one replayed Duran combination as, "Bing, bop." Just the kind of in-depth analysis we demand.

Brown spent all 12 rounds mispronouncing Paz' name as "Paas," apparently confusing the fighter with the Easter egg dye. The Godfather also delivered a gem of a blow-by-blow sequence in round five: "Paas looking as fresh as in round one—and down goes Pazsienza!"

At one point during the undercard, Mancini said of Greg Haugen, "Your body can only take so much. It wears out at a certain point." Gee, Boomer, it's too bad you didn't realize that before you tipped people off with your own silly, pa$t-your-prime comeback$ against Haugen and Hector Camacho.

Travel tips: Brown may have been at the MGM Grand, but he blew more smoke than the volcano at The Mirage. During an interview with Dennis Finfrock, the vice president of special events for MGM Grand (now there's a Q & A we were all dying to hear), Brown said, "This is not a shill interview," then proceeded to tell Finfrock how good his hotel's room service was. If it was Brown who did the eating, why were the viewers the ones who needed the Pepto-Bismol?

Patrick Ewing in action: Sorry, that should read, "Patrick Ewing inaction." Sharp-eyed viewers could spot the New York Knicks center at ringside, just hanging out and watching the action unfold in front of him. Kind of like he did in Game Seven of the NBA Finals against Houston.

WWF Wrestling: Where do I start? Let's see, there was Pazienza entering the ring with Chief Jay Strongbow's war paint on his face, Paz shoving the ref in order to go after his opponent following a slip, Paz pounding himself on the head with both hands to get psyched, Paz grabbing the ropes for leverage when punching, Cuban heavyweight Jorge Luis Gonzalez wearing his hair like Gito Mongol, and Hulk Haugen's headbutt opening a cut on Tony Lopez in their excessively dirty Richard Steele-cage match. "Let's get ready to Royal Rumble ..."

Once-in-a-lifetime offers: No sooner did the final bell of Paz-Duran sound than TVKO turned into the Home Shopping Network. Dial toll-free, we were told, for a $19.95 Paz-Duran T-shirt or a $17.95 tank-top. "Soon as I take it off," said a woman wearing one of the fight T-shirts in the commercial, "I can go back to being an English teacher." I'd like to find that woman to a) ask her what the hell she was talking about, and b) find out if she'd be interested in teaching English as a second language to Mancini and Lederman in her spare time.

Naughty talk: It's no fun paying to watch television unless you see or hear something you're sure wouldn't be allowed over the commercial airwaves. After being awarded the decision and then flexing his muscles while being carried around the ring, Pazienza told "interviewer" Lederman, "You gotta have balls to conquer the world!"

At first, I thought Paz was making a reference to Wimbledon or the World Cup, but then it dawned on me that it was one of those male things, something to make sports-watching macho men feel good about themselves. It worked, too. It made me want to just belch out loud and leave the toilet seat up.

Behind-the-scenes intrigue: Following Mike Evans' non-effort against Gonzalez, viewers were informed the Nevada State Athletic Commission was holding up his purse. It seemed highly appropriate because a month after the fight, many a man in America would be holding up his wife's purse—while sneaking out the checkbook to pay the cable operator. ■

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

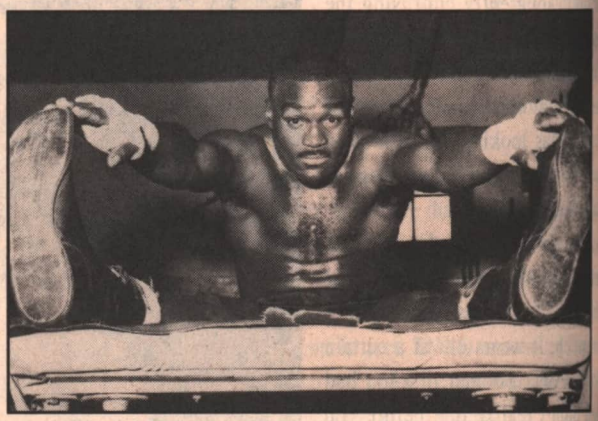
PHOTO QUIZ TEST

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

THIS MONTH: THE HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENDERS OF THE '60s

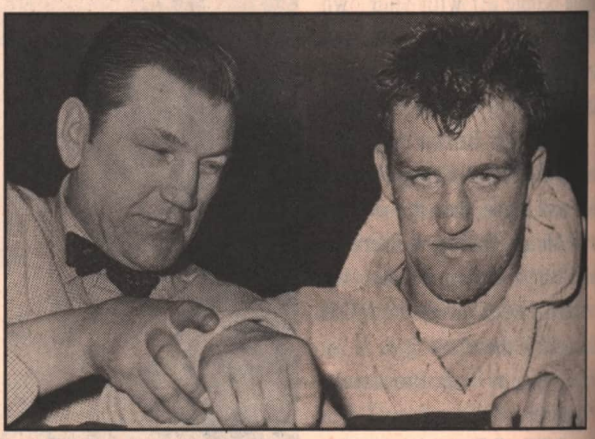
1

How many fighters can you name who rose to number-one contender status at both light heavyweight and heavyweight? For that matter, how many fighters can you name who can touch their toes from this position?



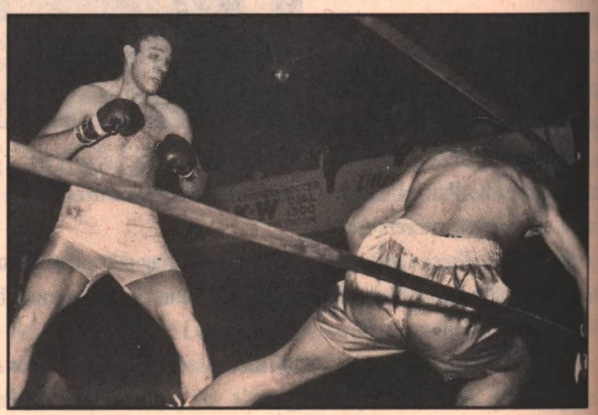
2

The only hint we'll offer on the identity of this square-jawed contender of the early-'60s: The gentleman on the left is Tommy Farr, the Welshman who challenged Joe Louis in 1937.



3

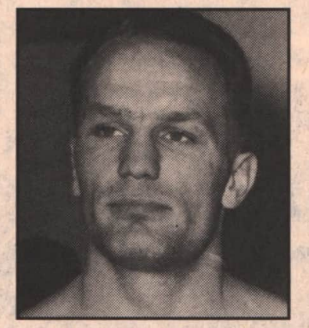
Some insiders thought this handsome South American was destined to become the division's next superstar. He never fought for the title and died in 1964 after suffering brain damage in the ring.



YOUR BOXING IQ

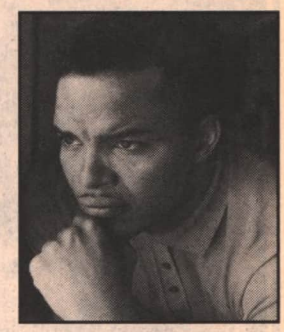
4

This left-hooker proved you don't have to be a big heavyweight to carry a big punch. Unfortunately, his hard punch was often undermined by his soft skin.



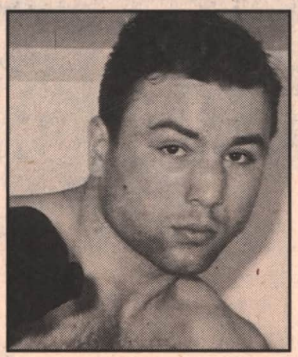
5

The decade was dominated by Patterson, Liston, Ali, and Frazier. This Californian lost to three of the four, but also scored wins over the likes of Doug Jones, Alex Miteff, Roger Rischer, and Jerry Quarry.



6

If toughness were money, this perennial contender would have been a billionaire. He was best known for taking the best shots of the best big men.

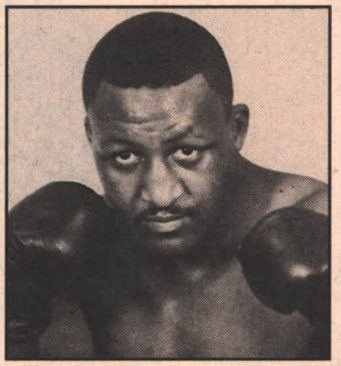


7

The giant on the right is former heavyweight champion Primo Carnera. His buddy, who fought mostly in the '50s, became a contender in the mid-'60s after scoring a couple of wins over Thad Spencer.

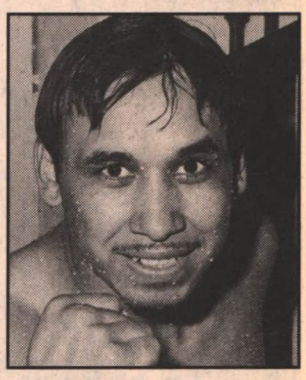
8

Hailing from Ohio, this heavyweight is best-remembered for ending the post-Ali winning streak of Sonny Liston. He also beat Karl Mildenberger, Thad Spencer, and Blue Lewis.



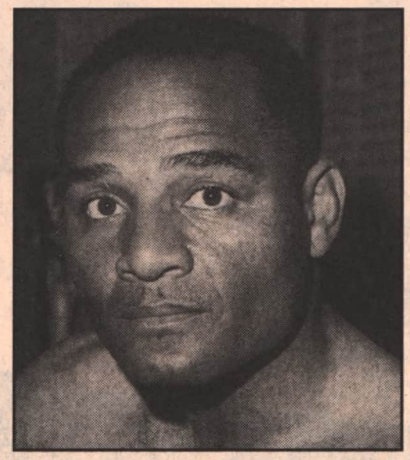
9

Mexico hasn't produced too many top heavyweights. This hard puncher made an impressive run in 1966 and '67, then ran into the left hooks of Joe Frazier.



10

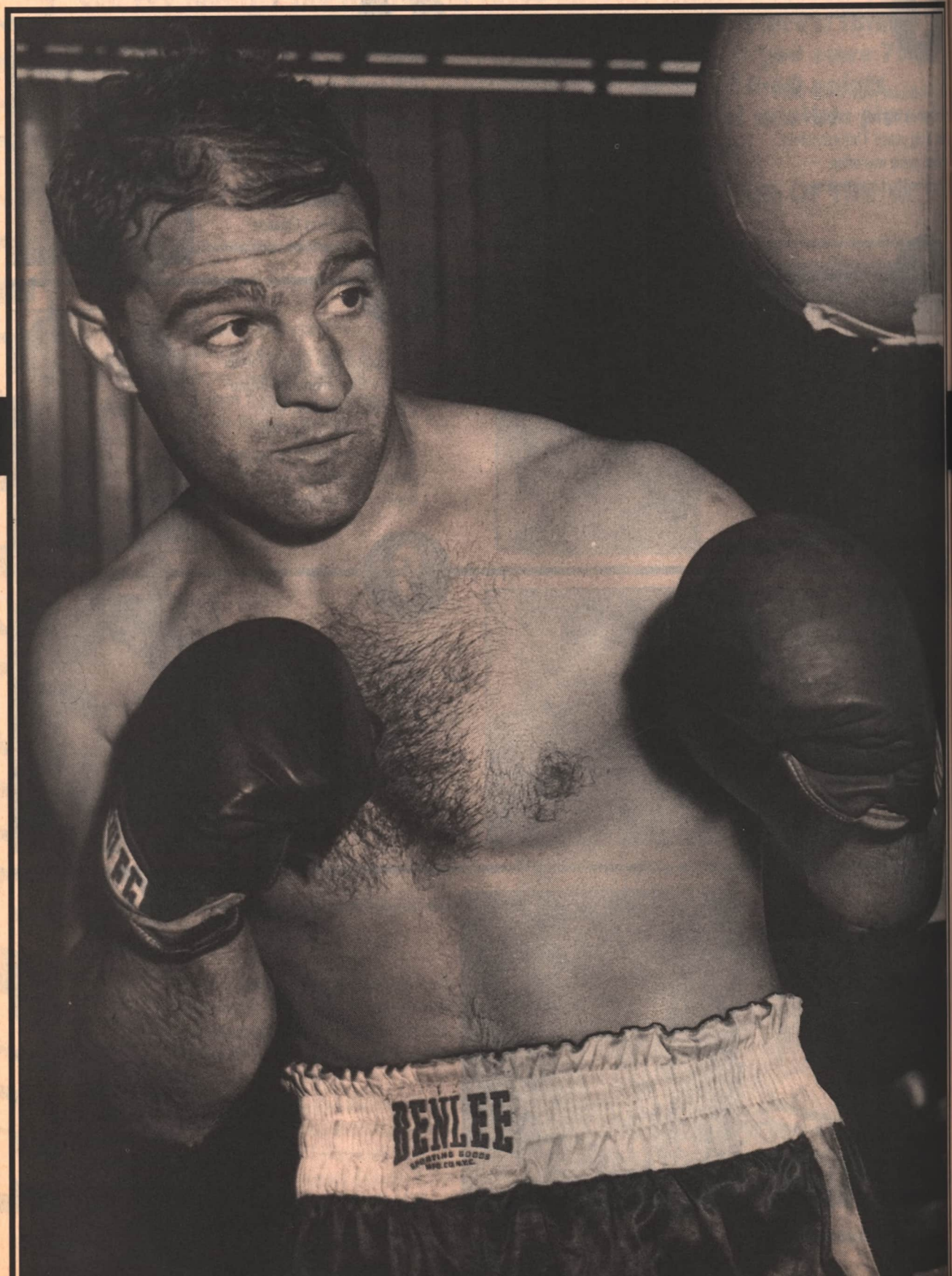
Luck wasn't on this fighter's side. He became the division's number-one contender in the '50s, then waited *10 years* for his shot at the title.

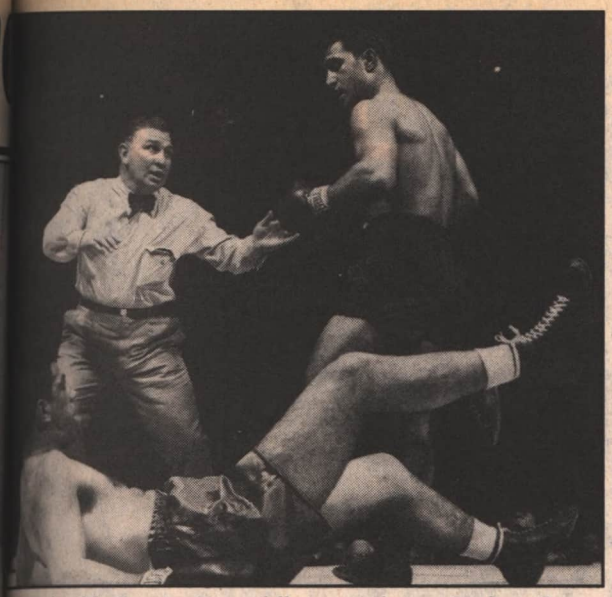


ANSWERS:

1) Doug Jones
2) Brian London
3) Alejandro Lavorante
4) Henry Cooper
5) Eddie Machen
6) George Chuvalo
7) Amos Lincoln
8) Leotis Martin
9) Manuel Ramos
10) Zora Folley

REMEMBERING ROCKY MARCIANO





Fight number 25: Carmine Vingo falls in round six at Madison Square Garden. The lanky New Yorker was Marciano's toughest opponent to date.

5. KO 1 Eddie Ross, August 23, 1948, Providence: Sam Silverman senses he's overmatched Marciano by pitting him against Montreal light heavyweight Ross, 15-0-1 (14). A right to the jaw at the 1:03 mark proves the promoter wrong.

6. KO 1 Jimmy Weeks, August 30, 1948, Providence: Marciano drops New York City's Weeks twice, both times with right hands. The end comes 2:50 into the bout. It's The Rock's first fight with trainer Charley Goldman in his corner.

7. KO 1 Jerry Jackson, September 13, 1948, Providence: Rocco Francis Marchegiano fights for the first time as Rocky Marciano, his name having been changed by manager Al Weill. A looping right downs New York City's 254-pound Jackson, and the bout is stopped after 88 seconds.

8. KO 1 Bill Hardeman, September 20, 1948, Providence: Victim number eight is another obscure heavyweight, Boston's Hardeman, who exits after being felled by an overhand right.

9. KO 1 Gil Cardione, September 30, 1948, Washington, D.C.: Fighting for the first time outside New England, and for the first time with Weill in attendance, Marciano knocks Puerto Rico's Cardione unconscious with a left uppercut at the 36-second mark. He earns $200.

(Continued on page 55)

A Fight-By-Fight Recap Of A Perfect Career

by Steve Farhood

On August 31, 1969, Rocky Marciano, one day shy of his 46th birthday, was killed in a plane crash in Newton, Iowa. Marking the 25th anniversary of the former heavyweight champion's death, we've chronicled his extraordinary and unmatched record, fight by fight.

"In Rocky's mind, the unblemished record was the most important thing, counting money and anything else," Peter Marciano, Rocky's brother, told THE RING. "It was a tremendous source of pride for him and his family. He knew there was no human being who could beat him in a ring.

"On many occasions, guys would come along who were undefeated. He maintained that his record was the equal of Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak, and he wanted it to stand up."

No one's matched it yet.

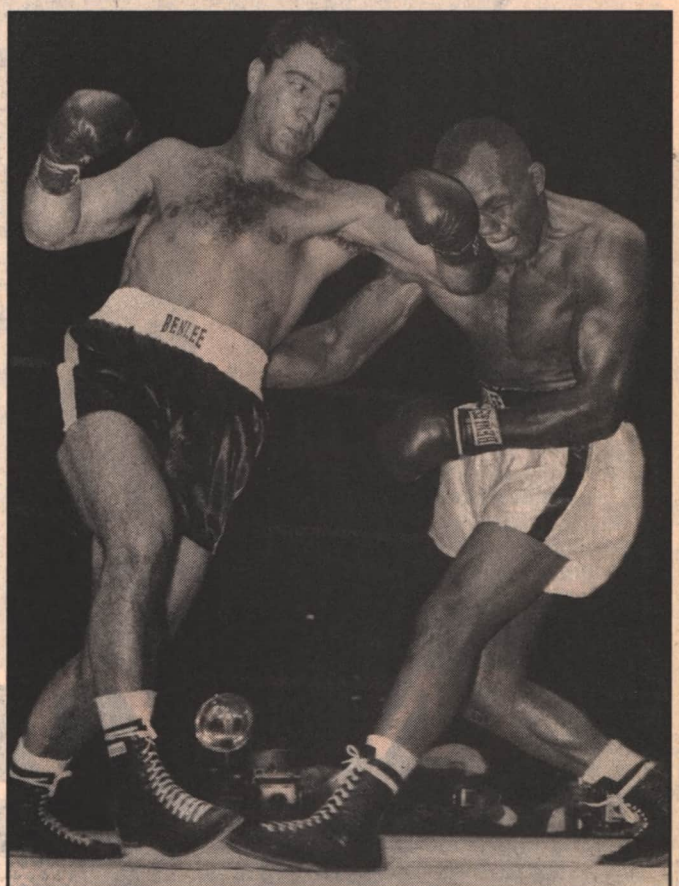
***

1. KO 3 Lee Epperson, March 17, 1947, Holyoke, Massachusetts: Fighting as Rocky Mack, Marciano earns $50 for his pro debut. Epperson proves bothersome, landing a few jabs until falling from a right to the midsection.

2. KO 1 Harry Bilazarian, July 12, 1948, Providence, Rhode Island: Having returned to the amateurs (a total of 12 bouts) after his kayo of Epperson, The Rock rejoins the paid ranks and crushes former U.S. Army and East light heavyweight champ Bilazarian, 3-7, in 92 seconds. Bilazarian was a sparring partner of Rex Layne.

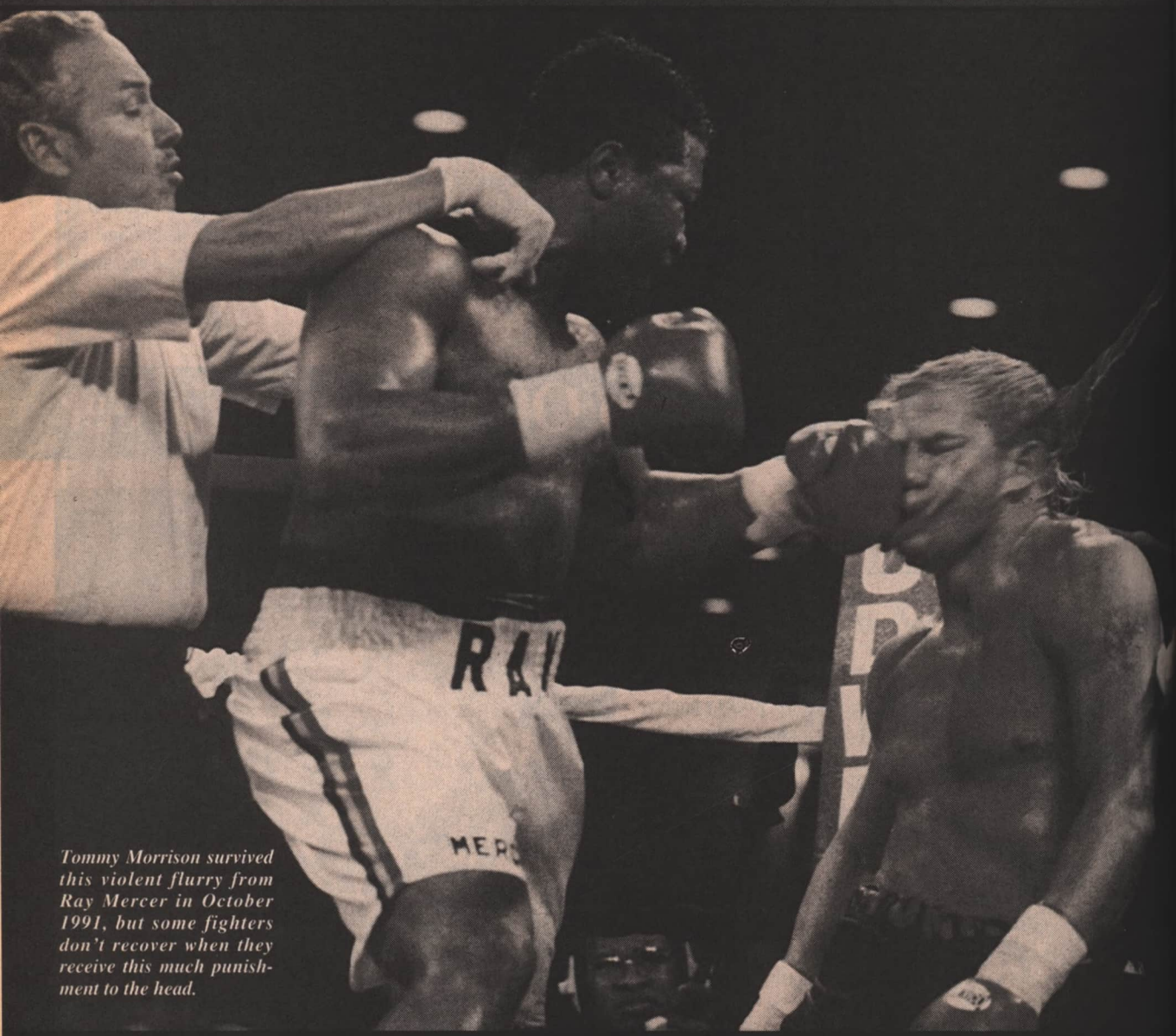
3. KO 1 John Edwards, July 19, 1948, Providence: Edwards, a non-descript heavyweight from Hartford, Connecticut, is finished by an overhand right after 76 seconds.

4. KO 3 Bobby Quinn, August 9, 1948, Providence: A promising and unbeaten (8-0) light heavyweight from Boston, Quinn shines in round two. But Marciano crushes him with a single right to the jaw in the third.



Fight number 43: Jersey Joe Walcott defends the heavyweight title against Marciano at Municipal Stadium in Philly. Walcott led on the cards entering the fateful 13th round, when the most famous punch ever thrown ended matters.

INJURIES IN BOXING



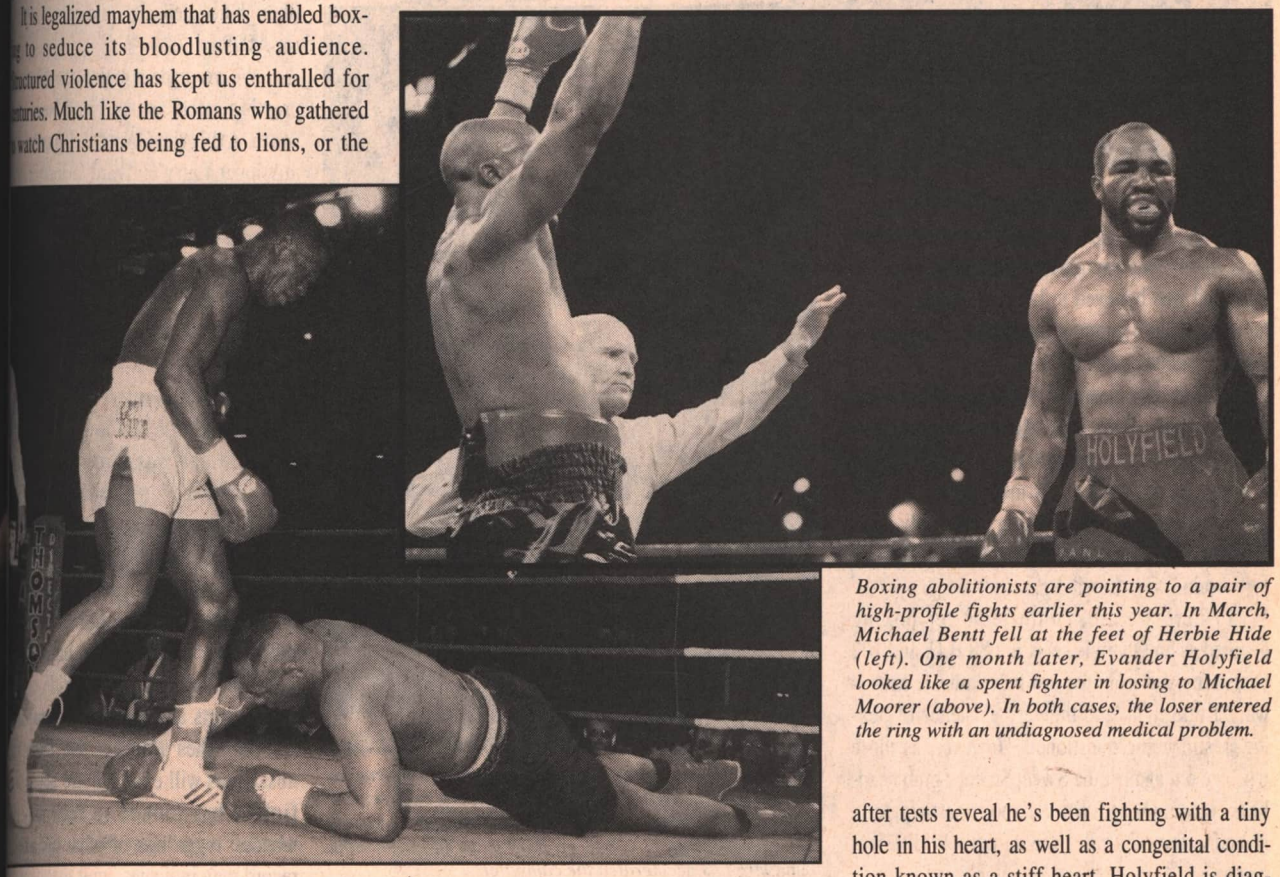
Tommy Morrison survived this violent flurry from Ray Mercer in October 1991, but some fighters don't recover when they receive this much punishment to the head.

Part One: Are The Risks Justifiable?

By Robert Cassidy

In the world of boxing, mayhem sells tickets and artistry sells hot dogs. That is why Mike Tyson is the most revered performer of this generation and Pernell Whitaker is not.

It is legalized mayhem that has enabled boxing to seduce its bloodlusting audience. Structured violence has kept us enthralled for centuries. Much like the Romans who gathered to watch Christians being fed to lions, or the



Boxing abolitionists are pointing to a pair of high-profile fights earlier this year. In March, Michael Bentt fell at the feet of Herbie Hide (left). One month later, Evander Holyfield looked like a spent fighter in losing to Michael Moorer (above). In both cases, the loser entered the ring with an undiagnosed medical problem.

...spectators who lined up to witness pistol duels in the Wild West, many who attend boxing cards go there to see a knockout, which is perhaps the most dramatic and complete ending to a sporting event, and certainly the most violent.

But it is that violence, and the consequences accompanying it, that have made boxing a target. The savagery, or at least the perception that boxing is a savage sport, has moved people to protest its existence in a civilized world.

Questioning the purpose and practice of boxing, the American Medical Association has been campaigning for more than a decade to abolish the sport. And while the AMA would have once been satisfied with a ban on professional boxing, it is now seeking to end amateur boxing as well.

If the doctors who run that organization ever force their high-minded and socially prejudiced agenda into law, historians may point to the first six months of 1994 as the genesis of their triumph. Since the AMA's crusade began in 1983, the organization has described the sport as "medically and morally wrong." The following recent events would seem to support half their argument.

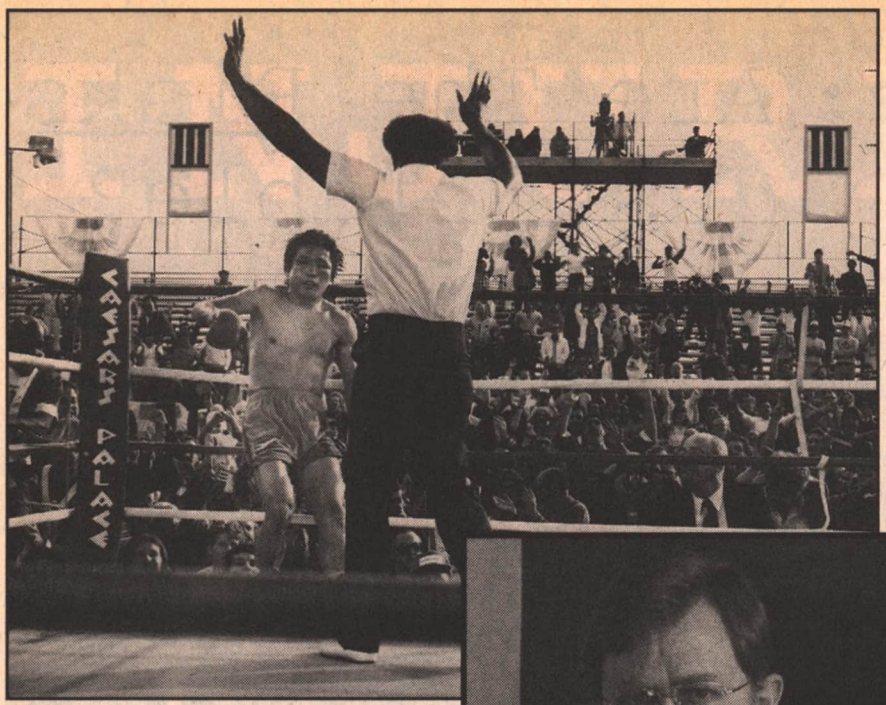
•February 15: Junior middleweight Donell Lindsey dies two days after collapsing from a glancing blow in the second round of a scheduled three-round bout at the Region VI amateur boxing championships in St. Paul, Minnesota.

•March 19: Top-10 heavyweight Michael Bentt collapses after Herbie Hide scores a surprise seventh-round knockout in England. After spending two nights in a London hospital, Bentt is advised to retire by a doctor who discovers an abnormal loss of brain cells.

•April 26: Two-time former heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield is forced to retire after tests reveal he's been fighting with a tiny hole in his heart, as well as a congenital condition known as a stiff heart. Holyfield is diagnosed as having a non-compliant left ventricle, which prevents sufficient oxygen from being pumped to muscles and tissues during physical stress. Prefight tests failed to reveal the stiff heart and the hole, which doctors say he's had since birth.

(In June, Holyfield said he was contemplating a comeback after visiting a faith-healer. Preliminary tests showed some improvement in his heart, but several boxing officials said he would have to pass a strict physical before again being granted a license to box.)

•April 28: British junior featherweight



Bradley Stone dies two days after suffering a knockout in the 10th round of a national title fight. Stone was examined by a doctor after the fight and was believed to be okay. The next day he lapsed into a coma at his fiancee's home and never regained consciousness.

•June 8: Dr. George Lundberg, editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association, asks in an editorial that the U.S. Olympic Committee and the U.S. Armed Forces disband their boxing programs. "Boxing is the only sport in which a person wins by damaging his competitor's brain," says Lundberg.

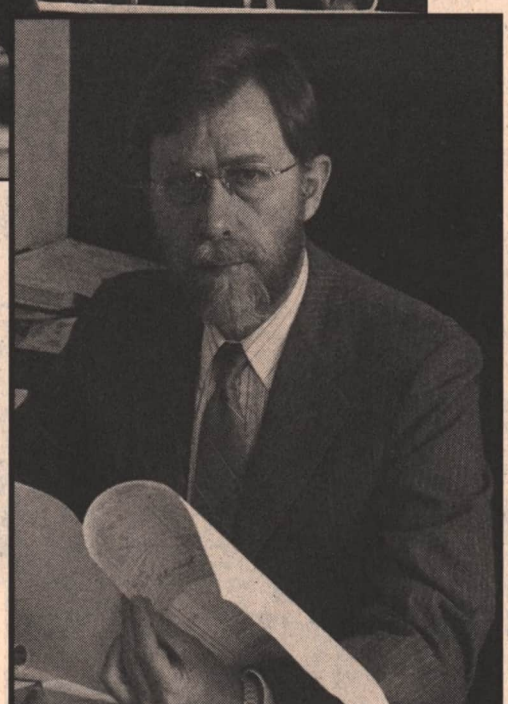
So here we are, centuries after boxing debuted as an Olympic sport in 688 B.C. and 102 years removed from the last bare-knuckle heavyweight title fight, and the very existence of boxing is still being questioned. However, as those who cry out against the Sweet Science grab headlines, those who govern the sport, participate in it, and enforce its rules see an entirely different picture.

For this three-part series, THE RING spoke with state athletic commissioners, commission doctors, the president of the IBF, referees, trainers, and fighters. Each person interviewed agreed that boxing is far safer today than at any other time in its history.

"I think most of the public and most of the commissions are more safety-conscious than ever before," said Don Hazelton, chairman of the Florida State Athletic Commission.

Indeed. The rules of boxing have been changed dramatically, with many of the dangerous, albeit macho, practices of boxing's Golden Age having been erased. Among the significant changes are the reduction of world title fights from 15 rounds to 12, mandatory suspensions for fighters who have suffered knockouts or TKOs, and the implementation of thumb-attached gloves.

"I think there is a feeling in the state commissions that everything we do is looked at so closely, we have to look out first for the safety of the boxer," said Dr. Flip Homansky of the Nevada State Athletic Commission. "And that's better for boxing."



Ever since the nationally televised Duk Koo Kim tragedy in 1982 (above left), Dr. George Lundberg (above), the editor of the American Medical Association's Journal, has been calling for a ban on boxing. In recent months, Lundberg has accelerated the campaign.

"Boxing is considerably safer now than when I started," said two-time former world champion Bobby Czyz, who turned pro in 1980. "The health requirements now just to get a license are more stringent. I don't know if athletes from other sports could even stand up to the tests."

The emphasis today is on prefight prevention. More is being done to ensure the fighters' safety once the bell rings. In addition to a prefight physical, most state commissions require a fighter to pass an annual comprehensive examination before he is even granted a license. Such physicals include a CATscan or MRI, an EKG, and a complete eye exam. In most states, fighters are tested for narcotics and other drugs (though not steroids), and, in some states, for AIDS.

"We've made a major contribution to pressing safety issues," said New Jersey State Athletic Control Board Commissioner Larry Hazzard, a former referee. "We were the first to require cornermen and referees to wear gloves, and in 1987 we started replacing the fighter's mouthpiece during the round. A round can't start without the mouthpiece in place, so why should it continue? Now that's a universal rule."

Since the Association of Boxing Commissions was formed in 1985, the states have begun to share information regarding recordkeeping safety standards. They often compare medical records on fighters and check each other's suspension lists to monitor fighters who may attempt to compete while under suspension. Each month, the Florida commission collects all the state suspension lists and publishes a master list. Some commissioners will even inquire about how a fighter has looked in recent performances, regardless of what his won-lost record may indicate.

"We are paying closer attention to statistics, records, and the ability of the participants," said Hazelton. "It's not so easy to get a lamb and a lion in the same ring anymore."

Randy Gordon, chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission, has been lobbying for a universal passport system in which a fighter carries a passbook with a complete record and comments made by commissioners at ringside. This has been adopted in Europe, and the WBC has issued passports to all its champions and registered fighters. However, citing economic reasons, the U.S. state commissions haven't imple-

…ned the practice.

Still, the adoption of new rules does not …nge one thing: A boxer's main objective is to …ieve victory by hitting his opponent primarily …he head. And, of course, there's no guarantee …ers won't die in the ring. It was the tragedy of …l Koo Kim, who died after being knocked out …he 14th round by Ray Mancini in a nationally …vised title fight in 1982, that galvanized the …MA's crusade against boxing. In a scathing edi…l, the AMA's Lundberg recently wrote, " …

hockey players who swing their sticks at one another or drop their gloves to fight? How many football players try to injure a key player so he is removed from the game? What is *their* intent?

There is danger in all sports. Dr. Barry Jordan, medical director of the New York State Athletic Commission, often opens his boxing seminars with the statistic that there are more deaths due to head injury in soccer than in boxing. In July, U.S. midfielder Tab Ramos suffered a skull fracture in a 1-0 World Cup loss to Brazil. Ramos was unconscious when removed from the field. He'll be sidelined for up to six months.

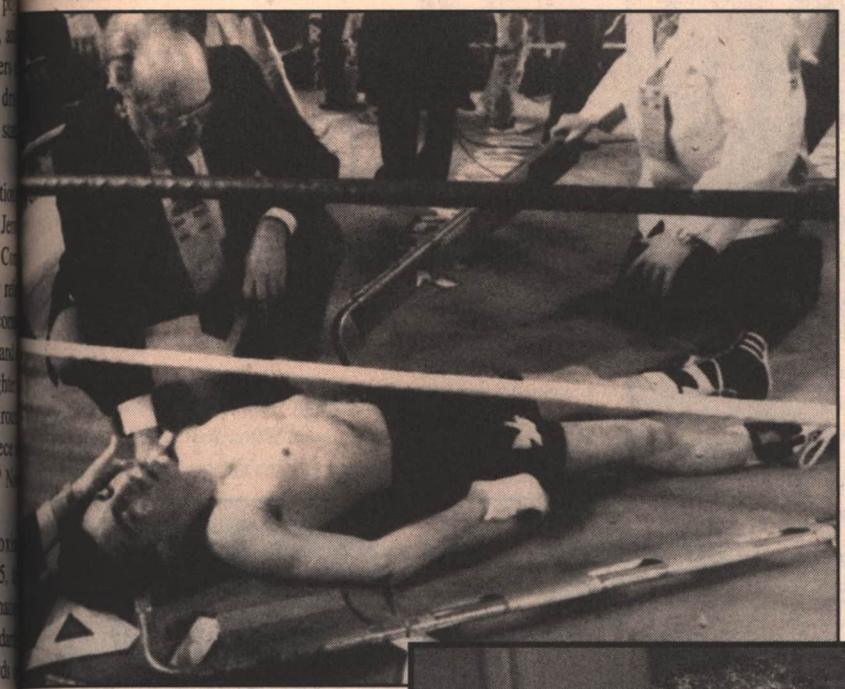
In the wake of Stone's death, members of the British Parliament called out for a ban on boxing. Countering the argument, Harry Mullan, editor of the British-based *Boxing News*, pointed out there have been deaths in the last two London marathons. But nobody is seeking a ban on marathons.

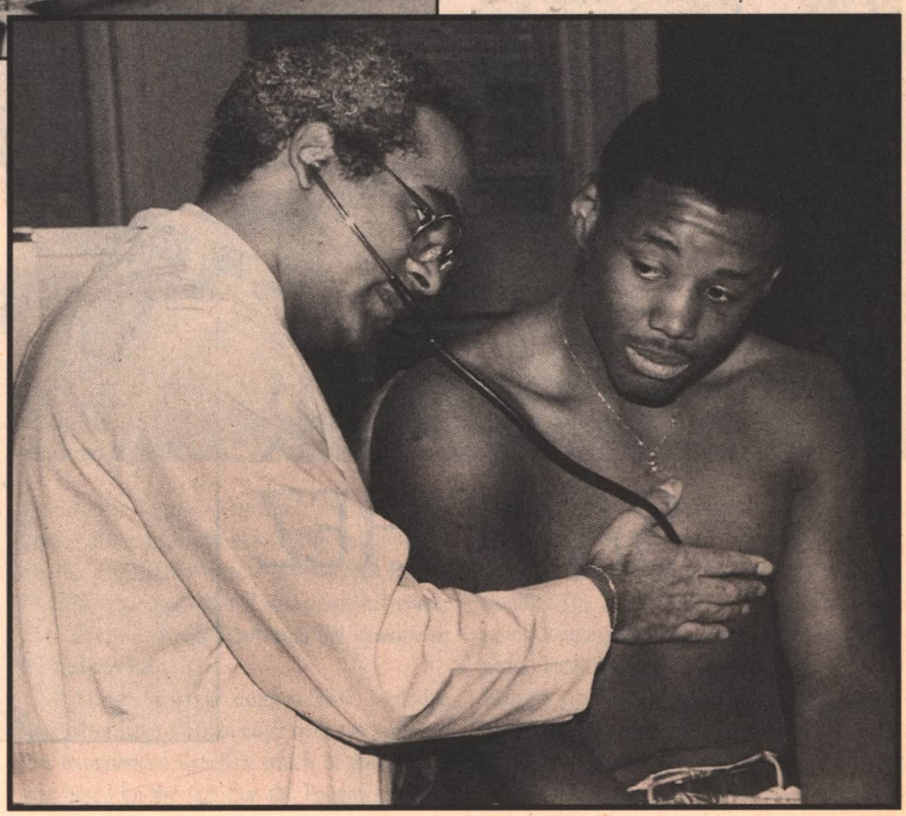
"The sport of rock-climbing is responsible for the most brutal injuries I've ever seen," said Homansky, who runs three Las Vegas emergency rooms.

And then there is football, now considered the most popular spectator sport in America. According to a long-term study of NFL injuries conducted at Ball State in 1989, of the 870 NFL players polled, the percentage suffering major injuries has increased drastically since 1959. (Major injuries were defined as those that caused a player to miss at least eight games or required surgery.) Of those polled who played in the NFL prior to 1959, 42 percent suffered a major injury. Of those who played in the '80s, the figure was 72 percent.

In December 1992, the NFL reported that 217 players had been on injured reserve, meaning they had missed at least four games. That figure represents a slight increase from the previous two seasons. Couple that with statistics from the Ball

(Continued on page 58)





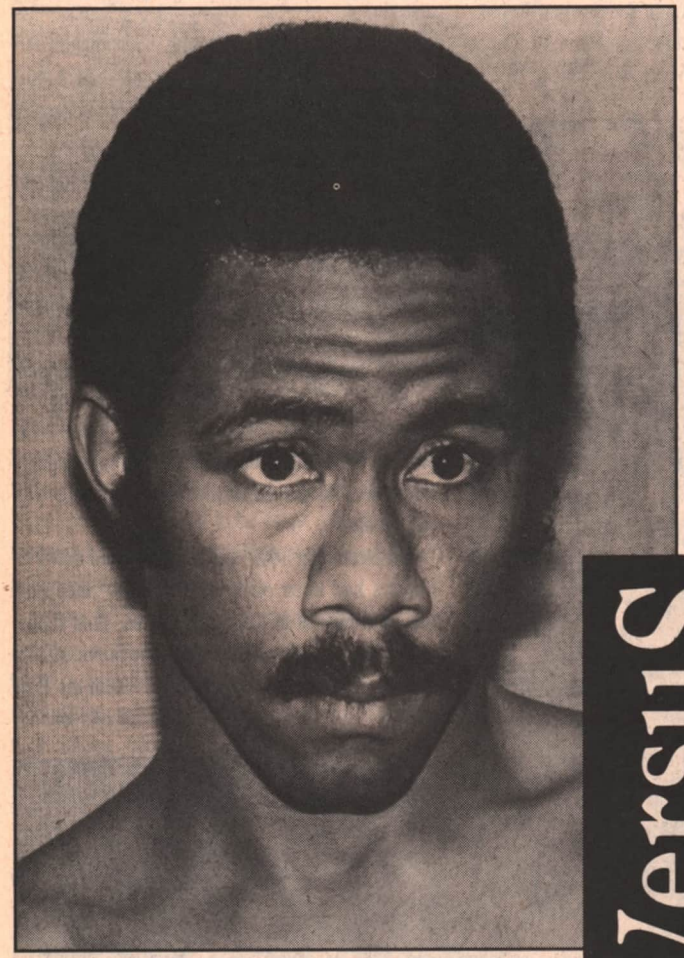
…rweight Alex Stewart undergoes a prefight …cal before a bout in New York City (right). …a prefight exam didn't help bantamweight …ie Sandoval (above), who entered the ring in …kened state after struggling to make weight …e his title bout vs. Gaby Canizales. …oval recovered but never fought again.

…oxing, the intent is to injure the other party. …participant wins over the other participant by …icting specific physical harm to the oppo…t."

…Most boxing people argue that Lundberg's …of the word "intent" is misleading. The intent …o win, but not necessarily to injure. Injury is …n a byproduct, but not always a goal. …field says he fights with no anger in his …t, and his intent is not to cause injury but to …. He states that if he and his opponent enter a …in shape and prepared to fight, the chance of …ry is greatly reduced.

What about intent in other sports? What is …ntent of pitchers who drill batters with 90 …s-per-hour fastballs? What is the intent of

WHAT IF...



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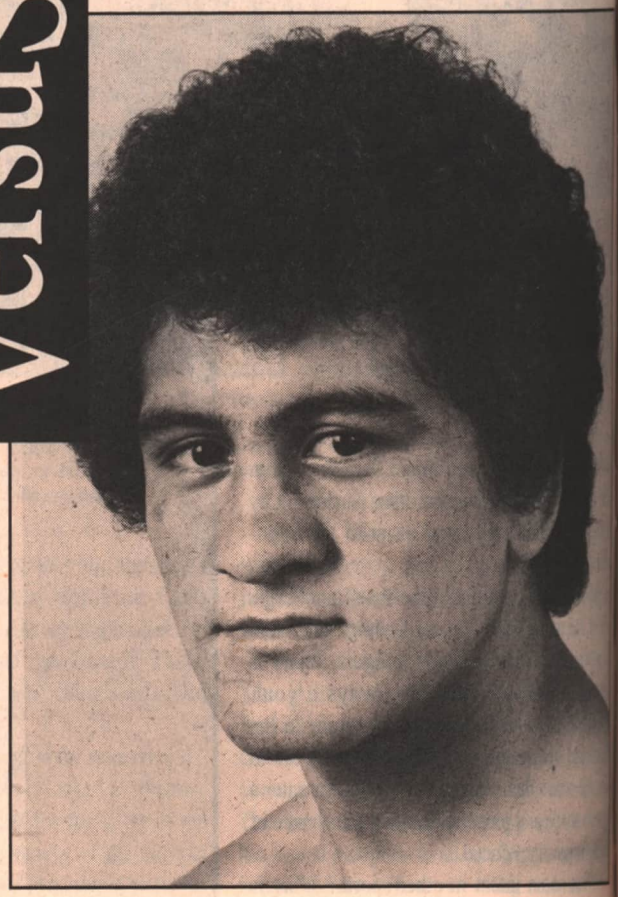


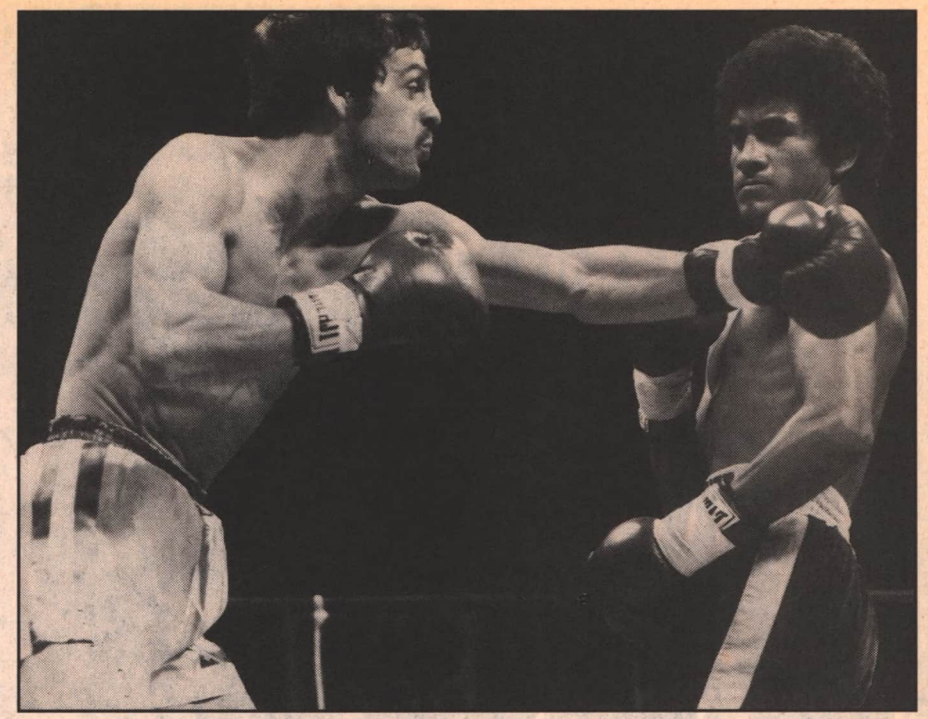
SALVADOR SANCHEZ

Most of boxing's best matchups are realized. But not all of them. For a variety of reasons, including timing, injuries, and promotional concerns, the fights we most want to see—the fights that could change history—sometimes fail to materialize. When that happens, we're left with our imaginations, which makes for never-ending conjecture and delightful debate.

With the help of Jim Trunzo, boxing's foremost computer programmer, and TKO Professional Boxing, by Lance Haffner Games, THE RING has once again decided to play matchmaker. (In 1991, Trunzo helped us with "THE RING All-Time Computer Tournament.")

The computer program runs in compiled basic and consists of several thousand lines of code. More than two-dozen routines and sub-routines cross-check such factors as ring position, the fighters' physical condition, accumulated damage, status of cuts, and special strategy, if any, that is used. In addition, almost 100 variables are constantly monitored during a given fight.

We've presented Trunzo with a handful of dream matchups, fights that could have taken place but never did. His program considers more than 100 variables, and he runs the matchups through his computer 20 times each. What if Jack Dempsey had fought Harry Wills? What if Roberto Duran had fought Alexis Arguello? What if Rocky Marciano had fought Floyd Patterson? Here are some of the answers.



Both Sanchez, above against Pat Cowdell, and Pedroza, below vs. Juan LaPorte, were outstanding defensive fighters. Moreover, though lacking one-punch power, their exceptional stamina enabled them to score a handful of late-round stoppages. Because of Sanchez' death, the fighters never met in the ring.

THE WAY IT WAS

In 1981, WBA featherweight champion Eusebio Pedroza silenced the critics who had dismissed him as a paper champion who feasted on low-level competition like Johnny Aba and Sa Hung Kim and fought mostly in his native Panama. Pedroza responded by staging a gutty, determined effort that resulted in a 15-round decision over highly ranked American Rocky Lockridge. He then solidified his standing among the fistic fraternity by employing a devastating body attack and stopping smooth-boxing Patrick Ford.

Unlike Pedroza, WBC featherweight champion Salvador Sanchez captured the imagination of the boxing public from the start. After a stunning 13th-round upset TKO of popular banger and defending champion Danny Lopez, the young upstart from Mexico duplicated his effort by winning the rematch via 14th-round stoppage. At the tender age of 22, Sanchez had captured both a world title and universal respect.

By the middle of the year, it was obvious Pedroza and Sanchez were the cream of the 126-pound division. Both summarily rejected the challenges of legitimate contenders Ruben Castillo, Roberto Castanon, and tough newcomer Juan LaPorte. A clash between the champions seemed inevitable.

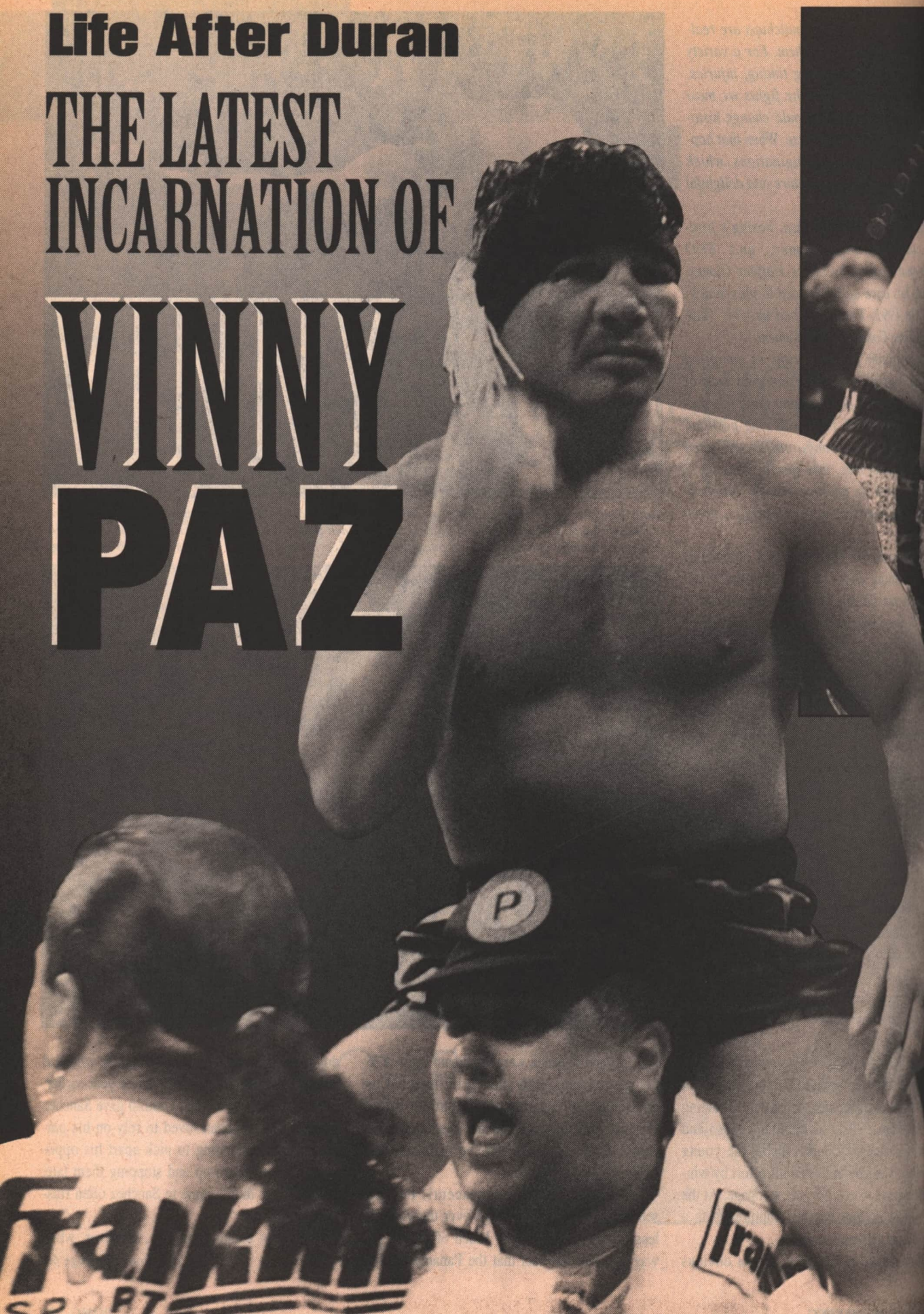
Among the fight cognoscenti, Pedroza seemed to have a slight edge over the younger, less experienced Sanchez. Much of the support was based on the fact that the Panamanian had dominated the talented Ford, a fighter who had greatly troubled Sanchez less than a year earlier. Slick boxers like Ford and Castillo gave Sanchez trouble. The Mexican loved to rely on his pinpoint counterpunching to pick apart his opponents, busting them up and stopping them late. Fighters who didn't come to Sanchez often frustrated him.

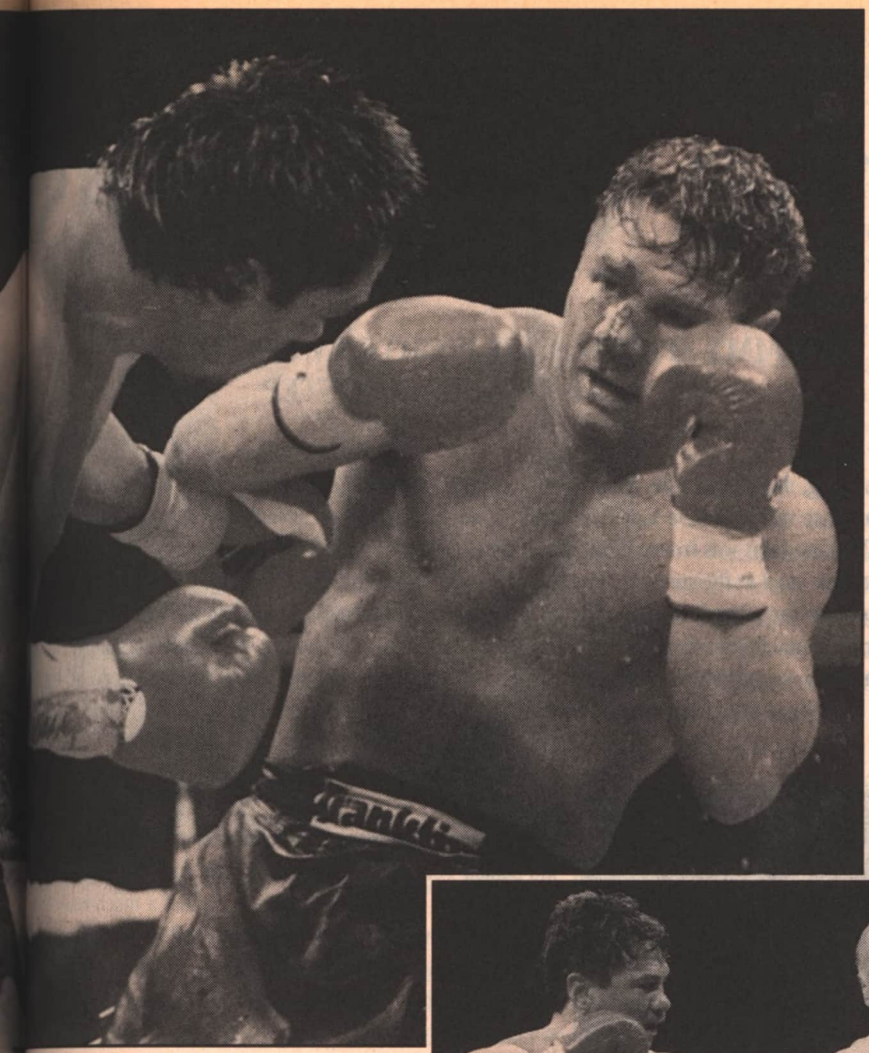
Opinions changed quickly, however, when

(Continued on page 60)

Life After Duran

THE LATEST INCARNATION OF VINNY PAZ





Left: Duran bloodied Pazienza, striking with both fists and head. But after suffering a fifth-round knockdown, Paz gained momentum and captured a unanimous decision victory.

Above: Pazienza found Duran hard to hit, but he hustled enough to outpunch the Panamanian legend. In the late rounds, the 43-year-old Duran decelerated. All considered, his performance was credible. Below: Referee Joe Cortez had a busy night, but he was never forced to decide whether to stop the fight because of Paz' cuts. "Did you see the bloody mess I made his face?" Duran asked afterward.

Photos by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

Phil Berger

While it wasn't a fight to incite a heavenly choir, it was good enough for a 31-year-old warrior who at one point his life didn't figure to box again.

In Vinny Pazienza's present incarnation as a middleweight, the ebullient showman from Rhode Island beat 43-year-old Roberto Duran at the MGM Grand. Beat him by unanimous decision after being knocked down by a right hand early in the fight. That was fair return for Pazienza, who had been told by doctors he would never fight again after fracturing his third and fourth vertebrae in an auto accident in November 1991.

In beating Duran in Las Vegas, Pazienza made money—a $500,000 guarantee and a percentage of the pay-per-view returns—and enough of an impression to stoke even bigger offers for a variety of opponents.

That suits Pazienza, who says, "I want to continue to turn the crowds on."

Pazienza is looking for his next chance this fall. The opponent? Don't be shocked if it's Duran in a rematch. Here's Pazienza's manager, the redoubtable Bill Cayton, on that possibility: "After the Duran fight, Duran's people, Luis DeCubas and Mike Acri, insisted that Duran had won the fight. And even though the decision was convincingly unanimous, several boxing writers at ringside supported Duran's backers, saying they had scored the fight for Duran." [Jerry Roth and Dave Moretti scored for Pazienza by 117-112, and Chuck Giampa 117-113.]

As for Duran, through DeCubas' translation, he said, "Vinny says he kicked my ass. Bull. I knocked him down, cut his lip. Did you see the bloody mess I made of his face? Next time I'm

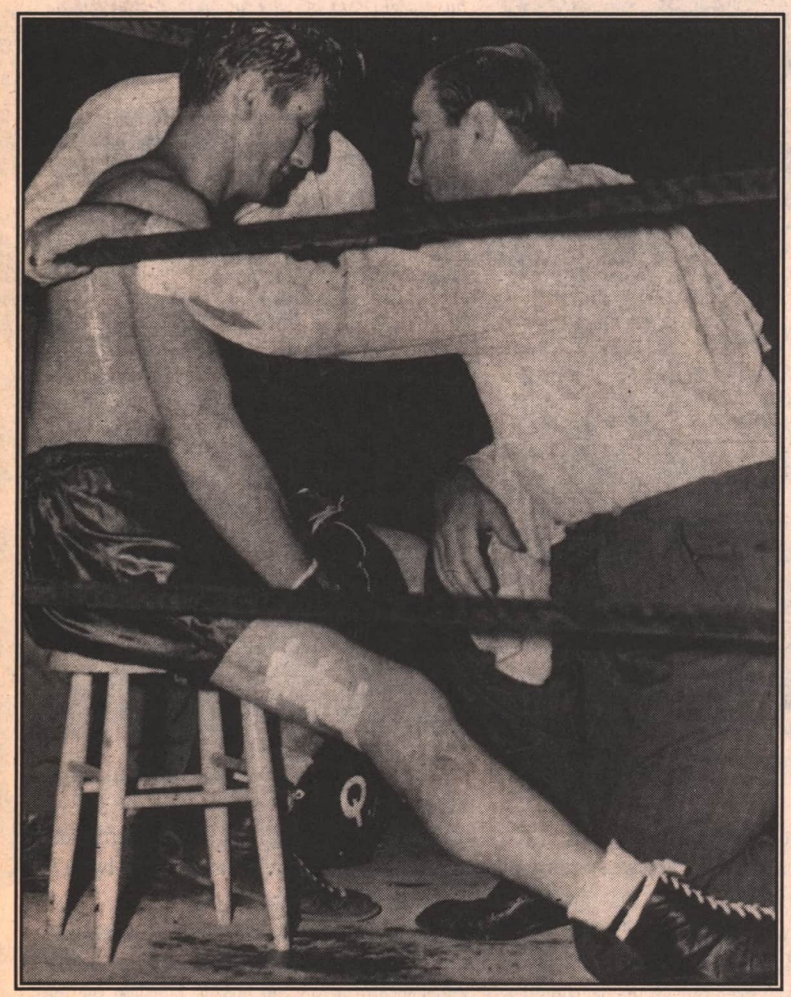
(Continued on page 61)

By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

Time CAPSULES

TOMMY SPIEGEL: THE FIGHTER WHO COULDN'T TAKE A BACKWARD STEP

The long, deep hole in his right thigh was filled with plaster and covered with surgical bandage held in place with adhesive tape. His right leg might have been carved from a single chunk of solid oak. The knee joint was frozen tight, like a rusted bolt that hadn't been turned in years. He had to be lifted off his stool at the start of every round. It was impossible for him to take a backward step. But despite so severe a handicap, Tommy Spiegel hobbled, skipped, and punched his way through almost 100 professional fights, six of them against world champions or champions-to-be. Incredibly, Tommy won many more battles than he lost, and remarkably, not only was he never knocked out, but he never once failed to finish a fight on his feet.



The long, deep cavity in his immobile right leg plugged with plaster, Spiegel listens intently to seconds imploring him to "protect your face" between rounds of his 1941 bout vs. Beau Jack in Brooklyn, New York. Jack beat Spiegel twice in 1941 in eight-round decisions.

This is a story I've wanted to write for the last 55 years, ever since that night in October 1939, at the old New York Hippodrome, when I watched in amazement as a sickly-looking kid named Tommy Spiegel, whose rigid right leg seemed as if it were made of wood, toughed it out against a much-better-than-average lightweight named Johnny Bellus. But I had much different thoughts when the bout began, namely, how in God's name could they grant a cripple a license to fight? And how could any physically whole, well-trained professional prize fighter stoop so low as to try to brutalize a one-legged foe? A disgrace to boxing. Immoral. Outrageous. Why, a person as handicapped as Tommy Spiegel shouldn't be permitted to drive an automobile, let alone fight professionally.

But as the fight wore on, I became increasingly fascinated and awed by Tommy's aggressiveness, his pinpoint hitting, his speed and artistry. And his remarkable resiliency was a sight to behold. Bellus, a solid, two-fisted puncher, rocked Tommy several times, particularly with right-hand counters to the head. But each time Spiegel shook off the effects and instantly resumed command. I recall during a furious exchange in the second round the guy sitting next to me grunting, "That kid can't move backward. His peg leg won't let him." The guy was right. Tommy was unable to take a backward step, even if his life depended on it. I asked myself, "Can this be called sport? Or is it a throwback to Roman days, when they fed slaves to hungry lions?"

How did Spiegel's opponents feel about trying to slug what was in essence a one-legged man? Some weren't bothered at all. "He's just like everybody else; it's either him or me." But there were also the soft of heart: "It didn't feel right. I gotta admit there were times I didn't want to open up." The majority of Tommy's foes agreed that while they may have felt sympathy before the fight started, that all quickly changed when Spiegel roared to the attack.

The Spiegel brothers, Joey (right) and Tommy, before a 1940 sparring session in Pittsburgh. Joey was a journeyman middleweight.

After dropping a 10-round decision to Tommy in Philadelphia on Thanksgiving Day, 1939, tough Tony Sarullo, whom they called "The Fighting Tailor," commented, "Spiegel is smart and he's strong. He taught me a few tricks about infighting. But I solved his style with uppercuts. That's the only way to get to him because he can't back up. No way can he back up with that right leg of his."

When told what Sarullo had said, Tommy acknowledged the logic. "Maybe he's right," he said. "But my defense against an uppercut is my own uppercut."

World featherweight champion Chalky Wright, who twice decisioned Spiegel, credited Tommy with "the kind of guts you don't find in many fighters. And a left hand that does tricks." Chalky failed to explain what he meant by "tricks."

Tommy Spiegel came out of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, a mining town near Pittsburgh. At age 15, his right leg was injured in a sandlot football game, requiring radical surgery that left him with a gaping cavity in his thigh, about five inches long, three inches wide, and 1½ inches deep. During convalescence, he was stricken with the most dreaded of all diseases of that time, infantile paralysis. When he finally left the hospital after almost a full year, he was virtually crippled for life, and in all probability confined to a wheelchair. "Beating that wheelchair was the first victory of my career," he liked to say.

It took him six months to finally take a few painful steps. Each day he felt the excruciating pain as he added another step. Then, to the amazement of his doctor, Tommy began sparring with his brother Joey, a journeyman middleweight.

"It wasn't really sparring," Tommy recalled. "Joe would tap me on the shoulder or the arm. Ever so gently. Tenderly. Like he was rubbing powder on a baby's bottom. Like he thought I would break in half."

Tommy didn't break in half. In fact, he tried to encourage Joe to "open up," to treat him like he would any opponent. So it was Tommy who started to open up. To his own astonishment, he found his useless right leg wasn't such a big handicap after all. Combined with his fine sense of timing, educated jab, and powerful right hand, the leg could actually be turned into an advantage. "It became obvious," he recalled, "that by leaning all my weight back on the stiff leg before letting go a blow, I had much more power than I normally would. It was like having a catapult behind me." Before long, it was Tommy who was pulling his punches, with Joey holding on. For Tommy, boxing was the only way to go.

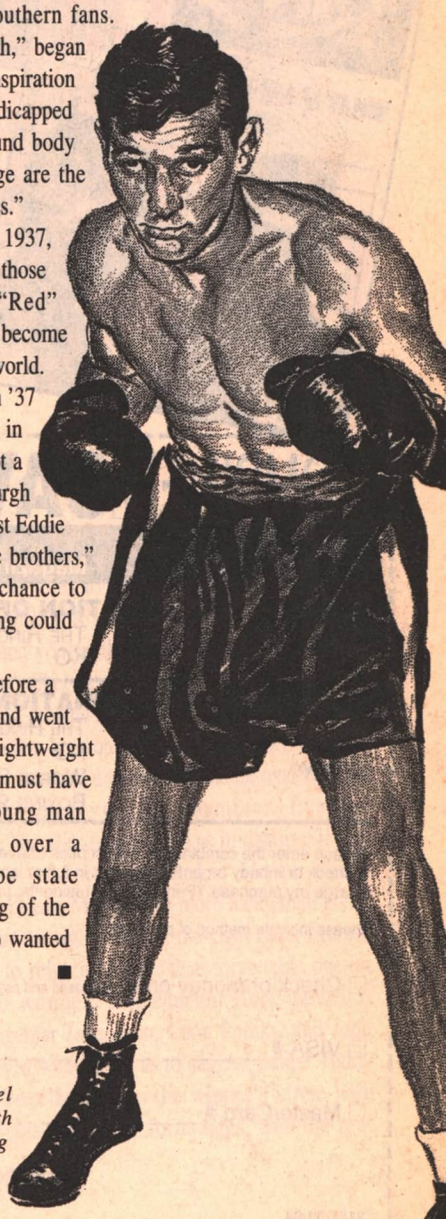
But he had a tough time breaking into the pros. Promoters around Pittsburgh were reluctant to take a chance. Tommy might get killed. And state athletic commission doctors frowned on permitting a "one-legged" kid into the blood pit. "The more I pleaded with them to give me a chance, the more resentful they became," Tommy remembered about the tiffs with local powers. "If I wanted to be a fighter, I would have to find someplace else to do it."

That someplace else turned out to be Florida. It was on November 9, 1936, in Miami, that Tommy Spiegel won his first pro fight, a decision over Tony Monin. Not only did he win fight after fight, he also won the admiration and respect of Southern fans. "This youngster from up North," began one editorial, "should be an inspiration not only to each and every handicapped person, but to all of us of sound body that determination and courage are the main building blocks for success."

Tommy fought 18 times in 1937, losing only four bouts. Two of those defeats were to Freddie "Red" Cochrane, who would go on to become welterweight champion of the world.

Spiegel's greatest victory in '37 wasn't won in the ring. "It was in November that my manager got a call from a promoter in Pittsburgh offering me a main event against Eddie Zivic, one of the famous Zivic brothers," Tommy recalled. "At last, a chance to fight in my hometown. Nothing could have been sweeter."

Spiegel outclassed Zivic before a wildly enthusiastic audience, and went on to win the Pennsylvania lightweight championship. How sweet it must have been for the courageous young man whose first victory was over a wheelchair to not only be state champion, but also the darling of the very powers who not long ago wanted nothing to do with him. ■



A drawing of Tommy Spiegel used in a trade magazine with the caption, "Rated 7th Among the World's Best Lightweight." (Circa 1939)

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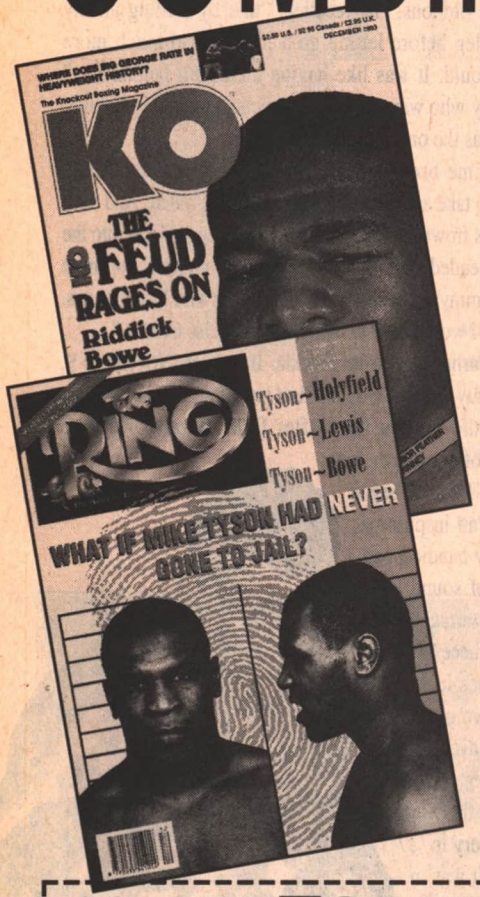

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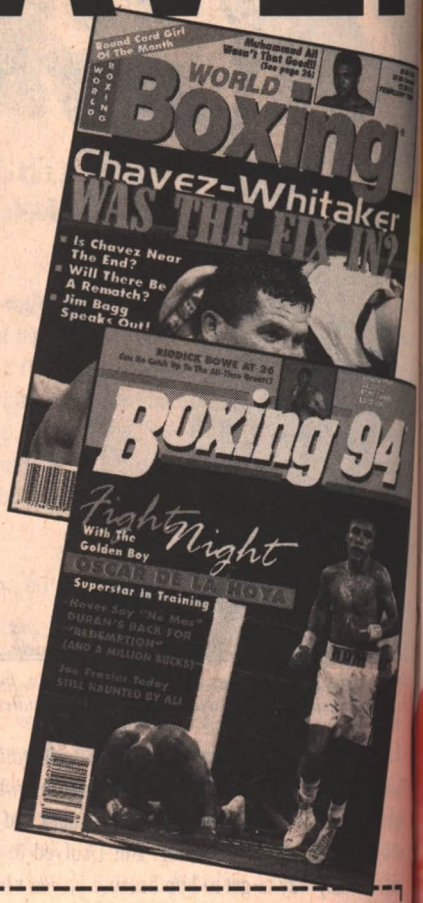

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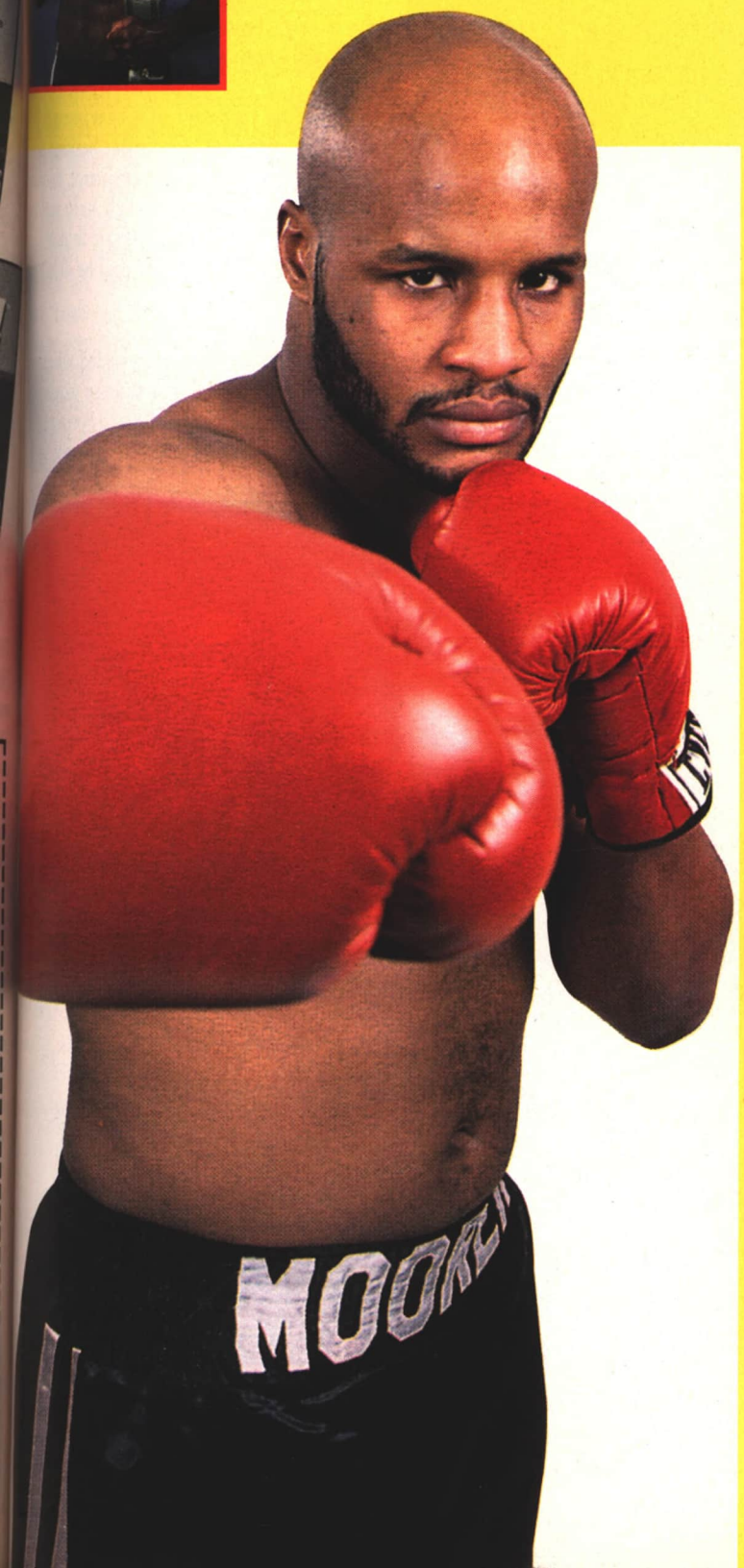
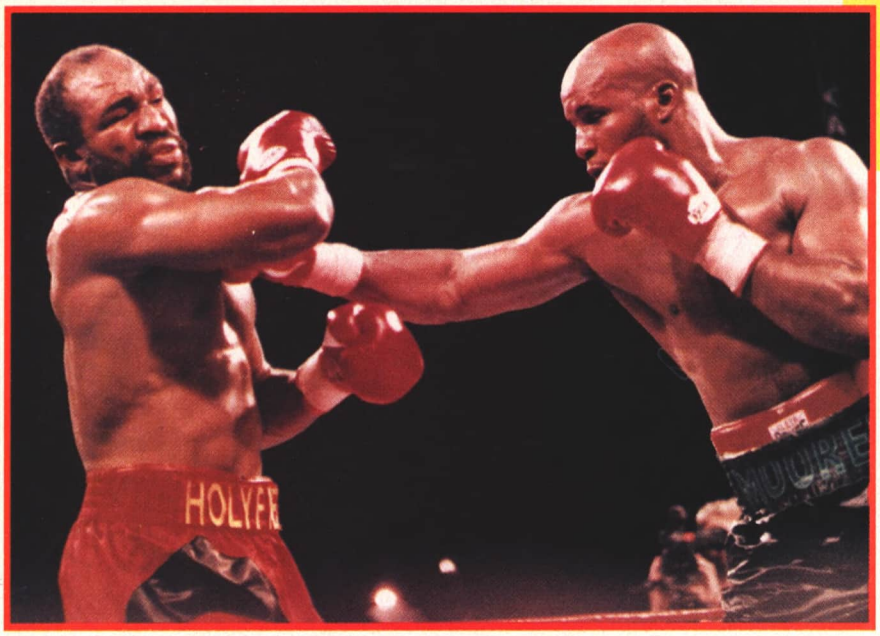


IS MICHAEL MOORER'S CAREER OFF-TARGET?

By Steve Farhood

Talk to Michael Moorer and the conversation invariably turns to respect. He doesn't expect it, he *demands* it. It's what's most important to him. Diss Moorer and you're chipping away at his manhood. In response, he's likely to chip away at your face.

For a newly crowned champion, the ultimate diss is to be labeled a one-hit wonder. Chip, chip away. As soon as Moorer was awarded a majority decision over defending WBA-IBF heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield, the Big Diss began. Diss as in dismiss. If you didn't think it, you at least heard it: Moorer didn't deserve the decision; Moorer was more lucky than good; Moorer was in the right place at the right time; Moorer was destined to reign no longer than forgettable one-hit heavyweight wonders like Marvin Hart, James J. Braddock, Ingemar Johansson, Leon Spinks, and John Tate. Some even went as far as to suggest trainer Teddy Atlas, who drove Moorer to the winner's circle with classic between-rounds performances, was the real champ.



Moorer has been criticized for failing to kayo Holyfield. After dominating the defending champion with his southpaw jab, he acknowledged that had he fought more aggressively, he would have likely won by stoppage.

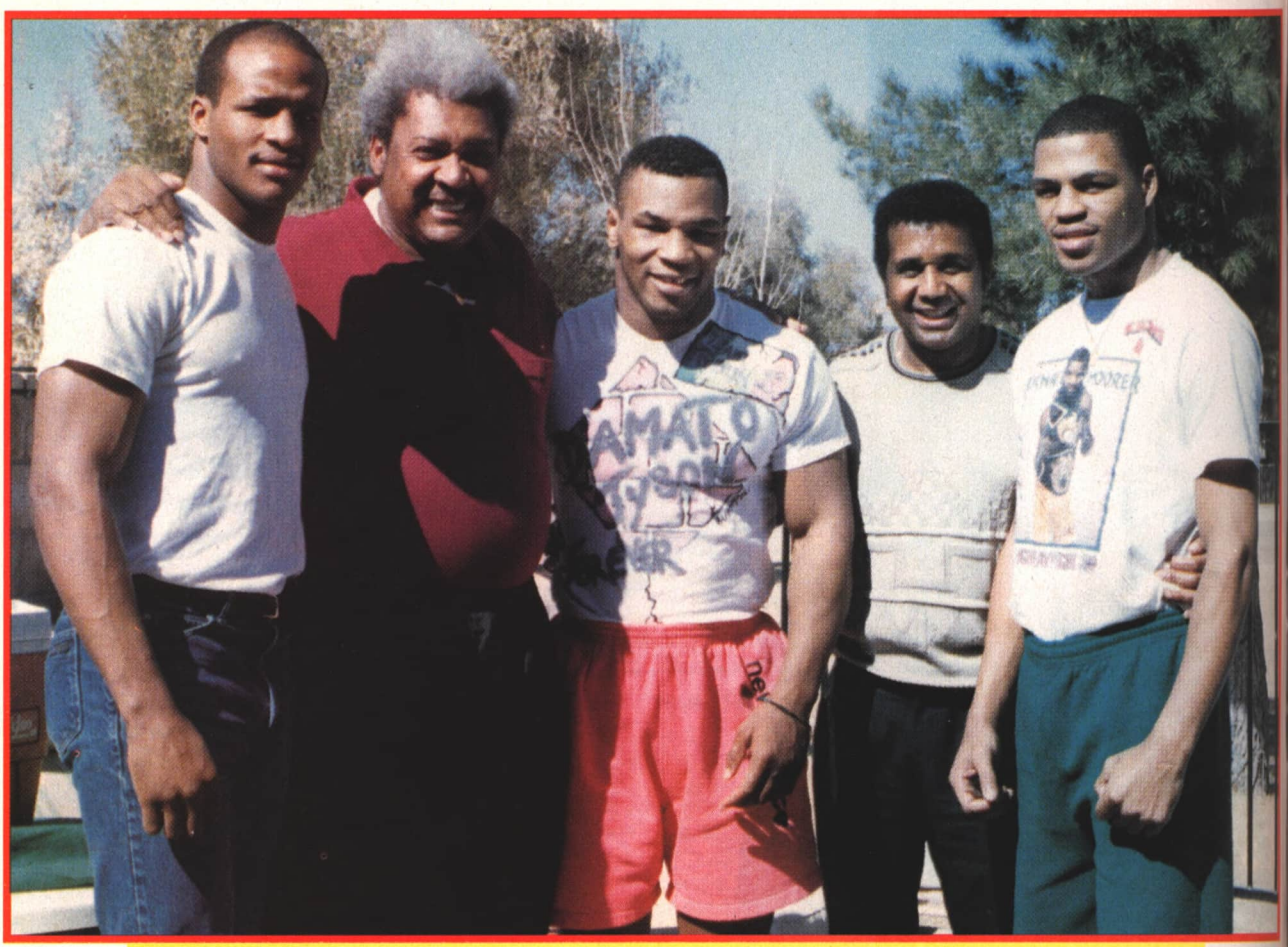
Then came a particularly diss-tasteful diss: Only minutes after Moorer was presented with his championship belts at a New York City press conference, Holyfield's personal physician announced "The Real Deal" had endured the 12 rounds "in heart failure." The inference, whether intended or not, was that if Holyfield had a hole in his heart, Moorer had an even bigger hole in his credibility. Jumping at the chance to paint a dramatic picture, the tabloid terrors asked, "What kind of heavyweight champion can't knock out a guy having a heart attack?"

Exactly how was it that you spelled respect, Aretha?

The first few days of a heavyweight title reign are supposed to be spent basking in the glow, not engaging in damage control. In dozens of interviews, Moorer didn't help matters, appearing sullen and aloof. He said he didn't care about unifying the title. He said he didn't care what the public thought.

A real people's champ.

The problem was compounded when word spread that Moorer's first defense would come against either Joe Hipp or George Foreman. Hipp is a tough guy, but he's been bludgeoned by Bert



From left: Moorer, Don King, Mike Tyson, Emanuel Steward, and Gerald McClellan. This photo was taken in 1987. It's possible that in 1995, Moorer and Tyson will be again posing together, this time in anticipation of a world title fight.

ger and Tommy Morrison. As for Big
ge, when image is a concern, as it always is
, you're the heavyweight champion, timing
erything. And the timing was off.

Diss, diss, diss (as opposed to tsk, tsk, tsk).

All the negative publicity aside, Moorer was
the man who beat the man. He still wore two
the three championship belts, while WBC
Lennox Lewis, who picked his belt out of a
age can, was defending against has-beens
never-wases like Tony Tucker, Frank Bruno,
Phil Jackson. But in June came word that
is would defend in December against former
mpion Riddick Bowe, the only contender this
of an Indiana prison cell with marketability.

"It doesn't bode well for his reign because
match dwarfs anything Moorer could be
olved in," Bowe's theatrical manager, Walt
-ney, *uh,* Rock Newman, said of Bowe-
is. "Logic says that whomever beat Holyfield
uld be perceived as the heavyweight champi-
That's the conventional wisdom. But when
ick Bowe fights Lennox Lewis, the winner
emerge as the person thought of universally
e heavyweight champion."

Clearly in full diss mode, Newman chipped
a bit harder.

"Moorer's options are very limited," he con-
ued. "[When Bowe won the title] Riddick
e across as the undisputed heavyweight
mpion, with tremendous popularity coming
of the blocks. He was in a position of much
er leverage with the TV networks to make
nds. We had a big stick. Moorer is tapping
a straw."

Added Bill Cayton, who manages heavy-
ght contenders Tommy Morrison and Jeremy
iams, "If [Moorer] had people around him
were marketing-conscious, he could be built
the right kind of champion."

Seems the dissing has at least temporarily
redirected at Team Moorer, which includes
moter Bill Kozerski and manager John
imos. In fairness, there isn't a helluva lot
could have done, or could be doing, differ-
y. Before Bowe-Lewis was made, they nego-
ed briefly with the former and extensively
the latter for a bout next spring.

"I went to sleep one deal point away from a
with Lewis," said Davimos. "I told them to
me a weekend to sleep on a rematch clause.
they panicked. [An interesting choice of
ds; Lewis is represented by Panix
motions.] I think they're stupid. I think they
e the worst deal ever made. They got 50 per-
less than they could've made, and they got
options. Where was Bowe going?"

In an effort to embarrass Bowe into a fight, Lewis no longer has to pull off press conference stunts like this. The heavyweight rivals will square off in December, probably in Las Vegas.

Asked for his reaction to Bowe-Lewis, Kozerski said, "It didn't really have any impact on us. Lennox Lewis was looking for enhanced credibility because Michael Moorer had two belts. If he chooses to fight somebody else, it's no skin off our nose. We don't need Lennox Lewis."

In fact, said Kozerski, Bowe-Lewis in December is no better than a diss-tinct possibili-

(Continued on page 52)

Larry Donald, rejoicing after his win over Jeremy Williams, was scheduled to fight Bowe, but was dismissed because he was viewed as too dangerous with the Lewis fight in place.

Photos by Jason Ross Lov

IRISH SENSATION WAYNE McCULLOUGH

"The Pocket Rocket" Is Headed For The Stars

By Nigel Collins

The first big one. Every prospect has a fight like this sooner or later. It's an initiation into the real world, a coming-out party that sometimes turns into a farewell bash. It means goodbye to the protective cocoon carefully spun by fretful managers and trainers, and hello to an opponent who's capable of derailing his dreams with a few well-placed left hooks.

Thirteen fights into his pro career, Wayne McCullough underwent his acid test. And when it was over, 12 grueling rounds later, the tough little bantamweight from Northern Ireland emerged with a black eye, a fat lip, and the begrudging respect of the boxing world. True, his unanimous decision over former WBC 118-pound champion Victor Rabanales was not without controversy, but everyone was forced to

The free-swinging Rabanales proved stronger than McCullough. Adjusting in the middle rounds, the Irishman began jabbing and moving in and out.

McCullough is understated, almost shy outside the ring. But once the bell rings, the fighter known as "The Pocket Rocket" turns into a non-stop punching machine. His phenomenal work rate and crowd-pleasing style quickly established him as a popular attraction on cable-TV, which, in turn, has helped make him a marketable commodity on both sides of the Atlantic. Even so, the razzmatazz that surrounded his entrance into the ring for the Rabanales fight seemed out of character for a gritty kid from the mean streets of Belfast. The ear-splitting rock music from U2 was appropriate enough, but the haze of theatrical smoke, a la Chris Eubank, was a bit over the top.

A gaggle of Irish soccer fans, in New Jersey in anticipation of the World Cup, cheered McCullough into the ring at the Mark Etess Arena. Former WBA featherweight champion Barry McGuigan, McCullough's boyhood hero and the biggest boxing star the Emerald Isle has ever produced, was on hand to provide television commentary to the folks back home. There was a lot of Irish pride riding on the outcome, and nobody was more aware of that fact than the center of all the attention.

"The whole country almost came to a standstill," McCullough told the *Philadelphia Daily News* a few days before the Rabanales fight, recalling the commotion when both he and Michael Carruth (welterweight gold medalist) returned from Barcelona with Olympic medals around their necks. "Ireland doesn't get that many Olympic medals. And besides, Irishmen don't need much of a reason to celebrate."

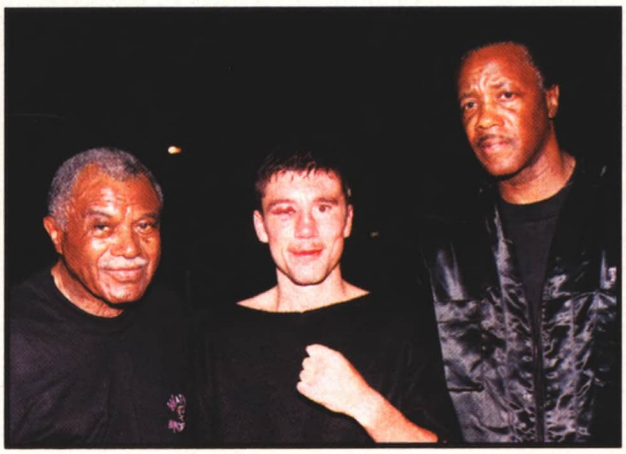
agree that McCullough had survived the baptism by fire with his world title hopes still intact.

In a bout billed as a WBC title eliminator, beating Rabanales made McCullough the mandatory challenger for champion Yasuei Yakushiji. As we went to press, the Japanese titlist was scheduled to defend against another former champion, South Korea's Jung Il Byun, with

McCullough was well-represented by a slew of fans who had come to the USA to root for Ireland in the World Cup. However, the fighter proved to be more of a green machine than the soccer team.

McCullough guaranteed a crack at the winner. In the meantime, McCullough will have plenty of time to nurse his wounds and continue his education under the tutelage of Prof. Eddie Futch, who, along with assistant Thell Torrence, is responsible for molding the 23-year-old Irishman into a world champion.

McCullough has made rapid strides since leaving his native land and coming to the United States to pursue his goal. Hailed as a national hero after winning a silver medal at the 1992 Olympics, he surprised many potential managers by signing with Denver businessman Mat Tinley, who brought him to this country, secured him a Las Vegas apartment, and turned the reins over to Futch.



Sandwiched by trainers Eddie Futch and Thell Torrence, McCullough shows the wounds of war. His hard-fought victory over Rabanales all but guarantees him a shot at the WBC bantamweight title.

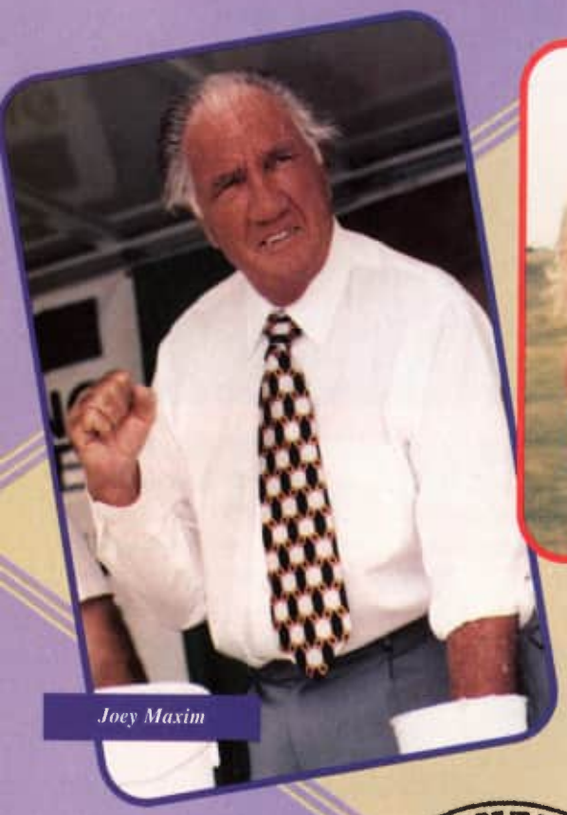
Future celebrations seemed in serious jeopardy once the Rabanales fight got underway. A seasoned veteran with five times McCullough's experience, Rabanales got off to an excellent start. The lanky Mexican displayed an unorthodox, yet strangely effective style, effortlessly swaying from McCullough's offerings while connecting with looping, odd-angle punches of his own.

(Continued on page 52)

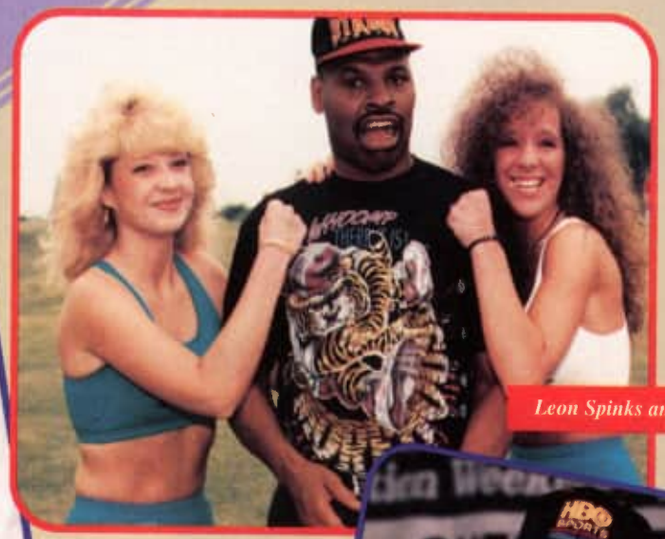
CELEBRATION IN CANASTOTA

The Stars Come Out On Hall of Fame Weekend

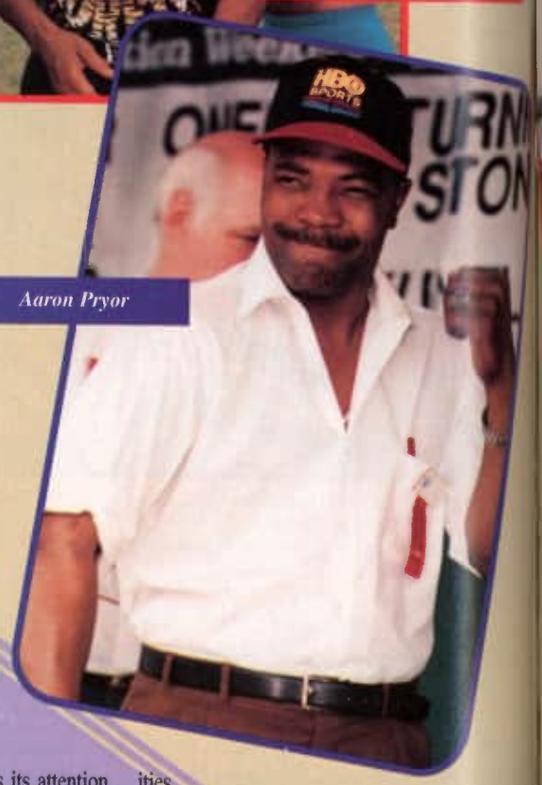
Photos by Teddy Blackburn



Joey Maxim

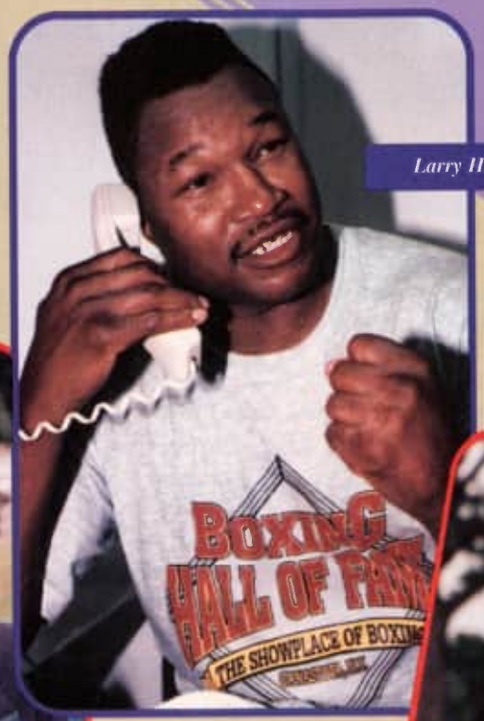


Leon Spinks and admirers

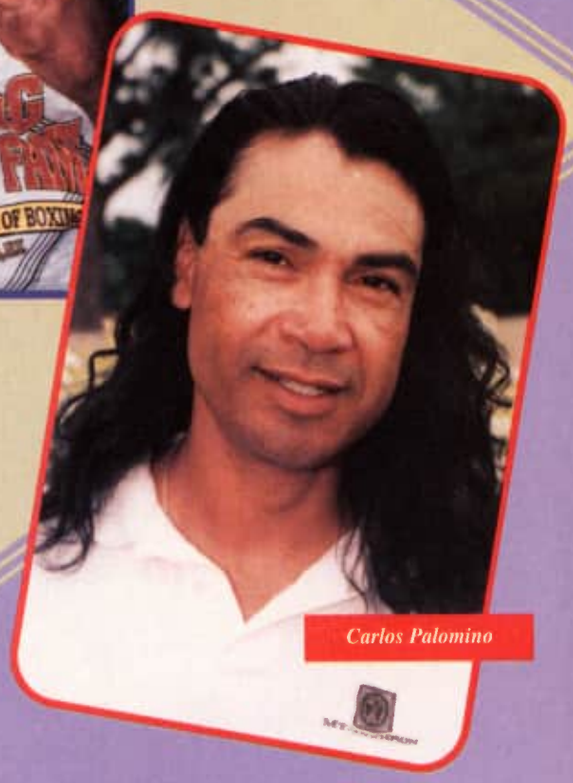


Aaron Pryor

Bob Foster



Larry Holmes



Carlos Palomino

By Ed Maloney

Legendary light heavyweight champion Archie Moore once remarked that boxers, and boxing fans, were different from other athletes and fans. This couldn't be more true than each year on the second weekend of June. While most of the sporting world focuses its attention on Elmont, New York, for the annual running of the Belmont Stakes, boxing aficionados make what has become an annual pilgrimage to Canastota, New York, for the International Boxing Hall of Fame's four-day induction festivities.

There was nothing special planned to commemorate the Hall's fifth anniversary as the sport's only existing shrine. And that was fine, because Ed Brophy, the Hall's director, has always made sure the boxers come first.

This year, the Hall opened its doors to four living inductees, more than 20 former champions (many of whom are Hall of Famers), and other boxers and celebrities. The members of the Class of '94 who were on hand were light heavyweight champions Joey Maxim and Michael Spinks and bantamweight titlist Carlos Zarate. They were joined by legendary trainer Eddie Futch, who was honored as a non-participant.

Although Maxim and Futch were aware of the IBHF, they didn't expect such an enthusiastic reception from the thousands of fans. Maxim, who didn't arrive until the third day of the festivities because he was being inducted into the Cleveland Hall of Fame, said, "If I had known it was going to be like this, I would have been here Thursday. I didn't get a parade when I won the title. I just hope I'm invited back next year."

Part of the 1994 line-up: (From left) Top row: Doug DeWitt, Livingstone Bramble, Sandy Saddler, Aaron Pryor, Ruben Olivares, Joey Giardello, Oneida Indian Nation representative Ray Halbritter, Hall of Fame director Ed Brophy, Jose Torres. Bottom row: Carlos Ortiz, Dickie DiVeronica, actor John Amos, Gene Fullmer.

That seems to be the feeling of every fighter who takes part. Former champions Bob Foster, Emile Griffith, Carlos Ortiz, Gene Fullmer, Willie Pep, Sandy Saddler, and Canastota's own Carmen Basilio are regular attendees to the extended weekend, which features an amateur fight card, celebrity boxing, a golf outing and picnic, a collectors show, fist-castings, a banquet of champions, a parade, and the induction ceremonies.

"I don't know how a Hall of Famer is supposed to feel," said Futch, who was happy to be inducted with Spinks, one of his star pupils. "I've always felt like I've accomplished some things in my life. But having other people recognize my accomplishments is an overwhelming feeling."

Maybe he should have known, because more than a few fighters Futch worked with have already been enshrined. And a couple were on hand to open the door for him. Hall of Famers Joe Frazier and Foster were there. So were former world champions Larry Holmes and Livingstone Bramble, both of whom remain active.

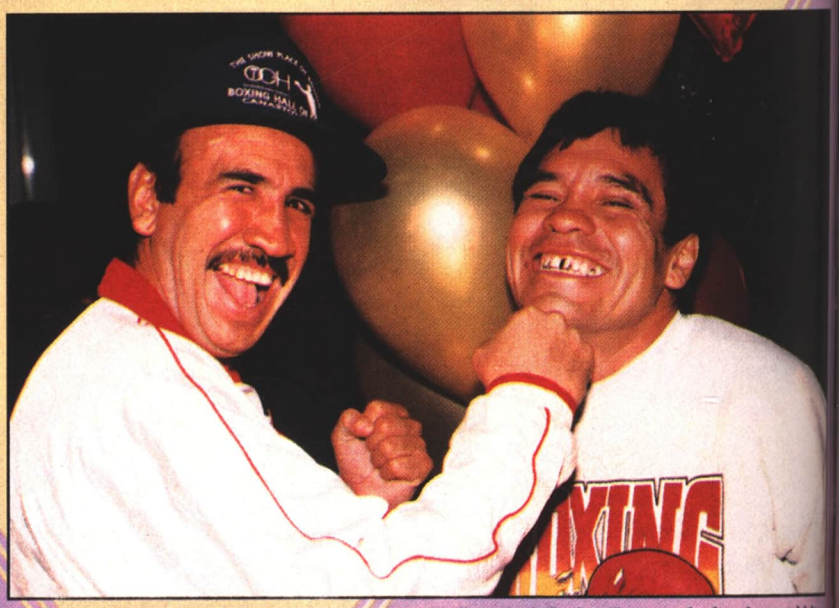
Making his first visit, Bramble regrets not coming sooner. "Ed Brophy invited me in the past, but I never took him up on it," said the former WBA lightweight champion. After touring the Hall, the man who scored two savage victories over Ray Mancini reflected, "I'd like to be remembered as one of the great counterpunchers." Former lightweight great Carlos Ortiz, however, felt Bramble's power in a different way. During the golf outing, a Bramble five-iron struck the lightweight great on the forehead.

"I was always confident I could knock out any man with my hands," Bramble later said. Then, pulling a golf ball from his suit pocket, he added, "But I never thought I could do it with one of these." Ortiz, who took a standing eight-count, was not seriously hurt.

George Chuvalo, who last year lost a son to a drug overdose and his wife to suicide, was on hand to thank everyone for prayers and support. The biggest surprise of the weekend was the appearance of former junior welterweight champion Aaron Pryor, who squandered his exceptional talents with drug use. Pryor, who said he's been clean for some time, stays active training amateurs and in religious work.

Michael Moorer became the first active heavyweight champion to attend the induction weekend. The first southpaw heavyweight titlist was a big hit with the fans, for whom he patiently

(Continued on page 58)



Throughout the weekend, fans and writers repeatedly asked Carlos Zarate whether he would have defeated countryman and fellow legend Ruben Olivares in a 118-pound showdown. Zarate chose to remain diplomatic, while Olivares, inducted in 1991, proved he could still take a punch.

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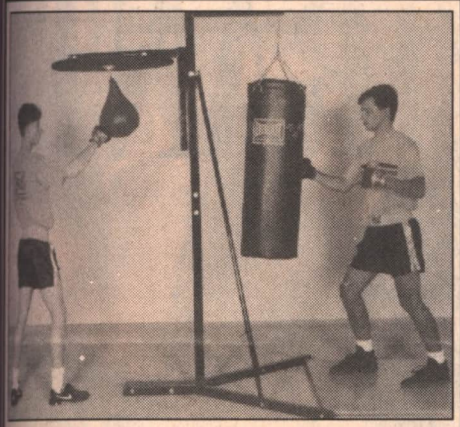

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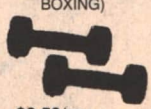

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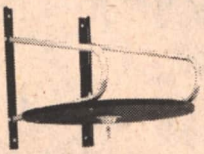

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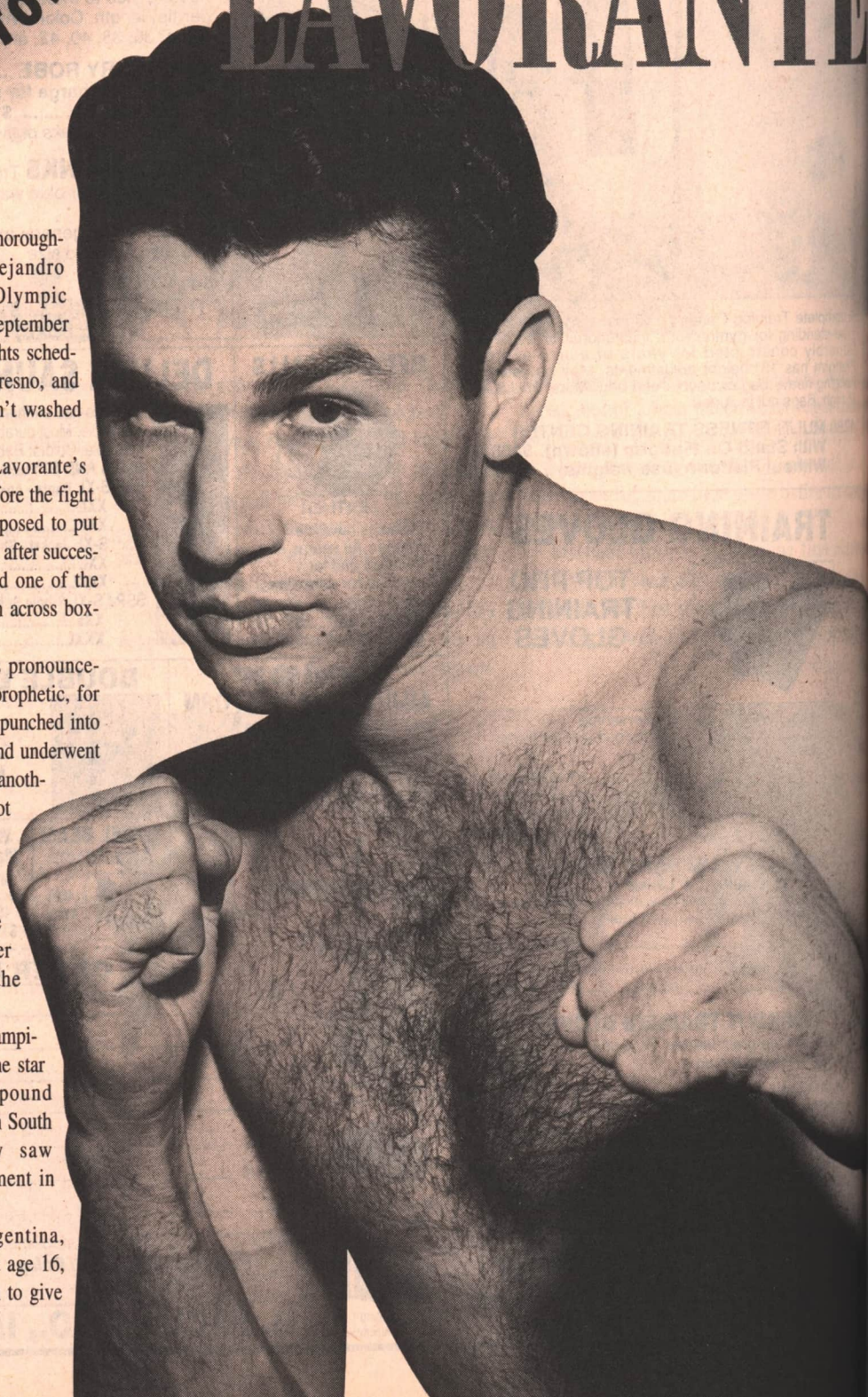
Shooting for the Moon

THE TRAGIC ECLIPSE OF ALEJANDRO LAVORANTE



By Pete Ehrmann

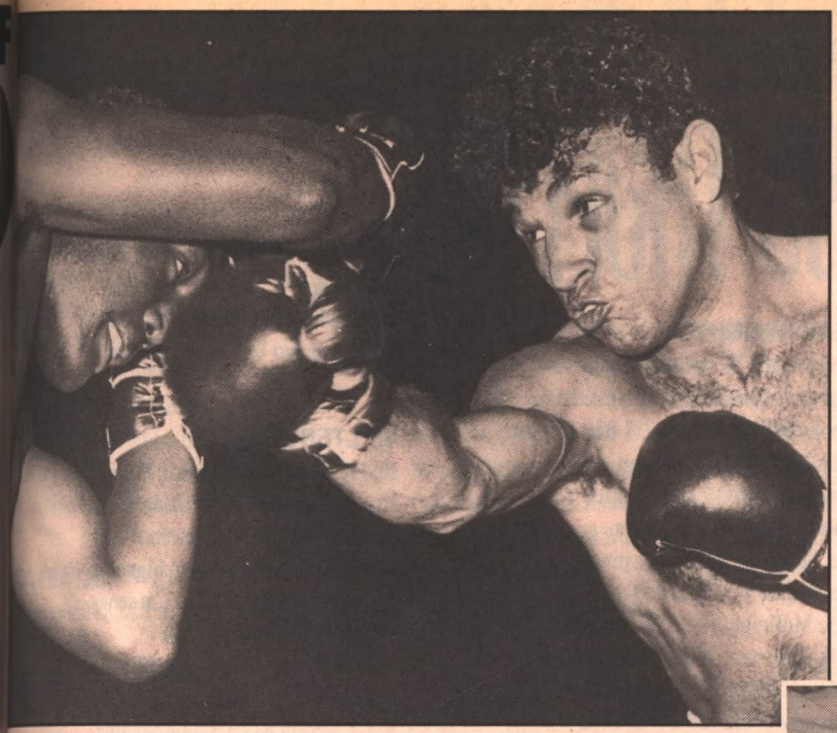
The comeback trail had been thoroughly mapped out when Alejandro Lavorante entered the Olympic Auditorium on Los Angeles on September 21, 1962. After that there were fights scheduled in Santa Monica, San Jose, Fresno, and Phoenix that would prove he wasn't washed up at the age of 25.

"We're still not dead," said Lavorante's manager, Paul "Pinkie" George, before the fight with Johnny Riggins that was supposed to put Lavorante back into the win column after successive knockouts losses had dimmed one of the brightest heavyweight stars to flash across boxing's horizon in years.

Three decades later, George's pronouncement seems eerily and ironically prophetic, for although Alejandro Lavorante was punched into a coma by 5-1 underdog Riggins and underwent three brain operations, he lived for another year-and-a-half. He was "still not dead," but Lavorante was never again cognizant of the world around him, including the international tug-of-war over his comatose body that still today one observer calls "a terrible disgrace" for the United States of America.

It was former heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey who first saw the star potential in the 6'3", 200-pound Argentine. While on a tour through South America, in 1959, Dempsey saw Lavorante in an amateur tournament in Caracas, Venezuela.

A resident of Rosario, Argentina, Lavorante had turned to boxing at age 16, after his father had persuaded him to give



...n he outpointed Monroe Ratliff in June ...l, Lavorante was considered among the most ...ctive young contenders in the heavyweight ...sion. However, losses to George Logan and ...ie Moore soon followed.

...sketball because it wasn't safe. In a three- ... amateur career, he had become the heavy- ...ght champion of Argentina.

When Dempsey spotted him, Lavorante was ...king as a mechanic's helper for $6.95 a ... A later report that he had been the person- ...uffeur of Argentina President Juan Peron ...ably originated in the fertile brain of boxer- ...ed-impresario George, whose lack of ...ge—he stood 5'2"—was more than compen- ...d for by a towering imagination.

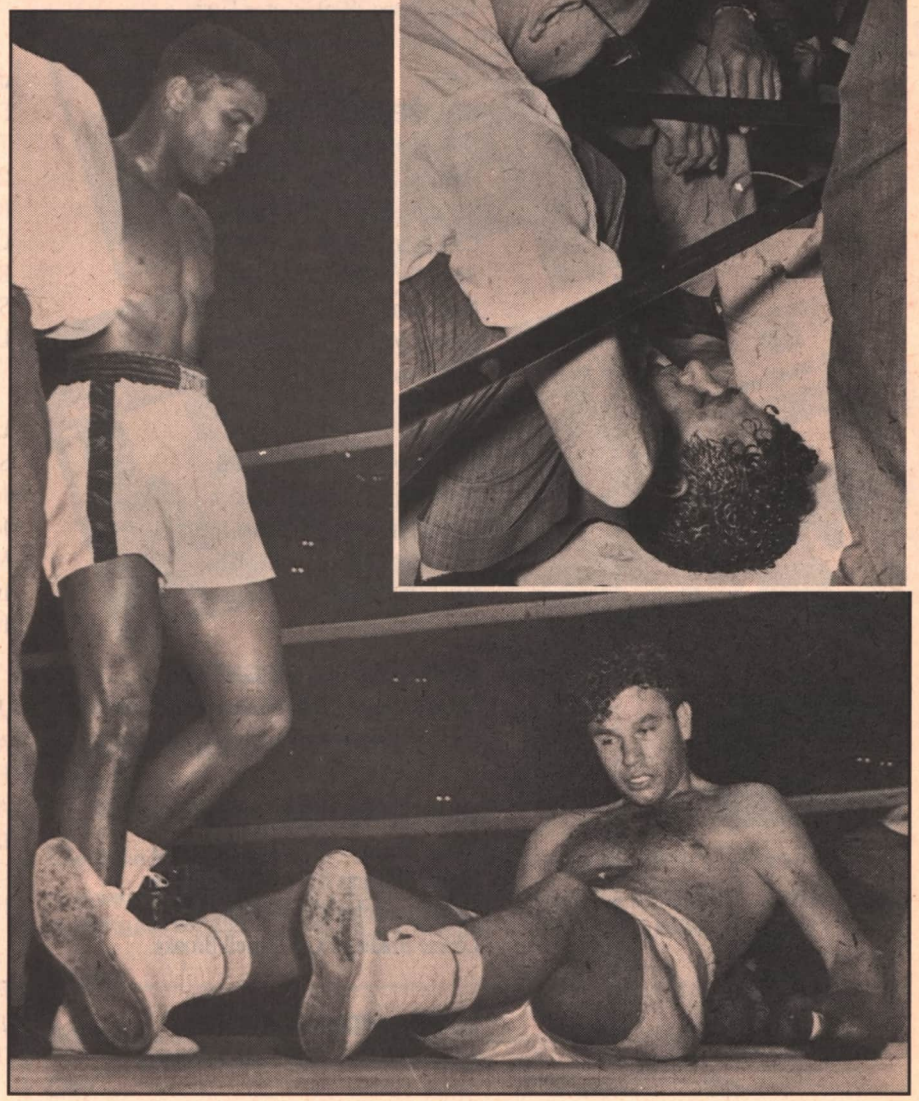
In 1940, George had rescued a nondescript, ...ing Iowa heavyweight named John Pacek ... total obscurity by changing him name to ...y Paychek, getting him a job carrying bags ... Des Moines hotel, and billing him as "The ...ing Bellhop." Then George promoted his ... into a title fight against Joe Louis, who ...ged Paychek like a load of Samsonite in two ...sided rounds.

It was to George that Dempsey suggested the ... dark, and handsome Latin boxer with the wonderfully euphonious name might be molded into a marquee professional heavyweight. In 1959, the division was in bad need of a charisma transfusion. Floyd Patterson, a quiet, brooding man outside the ring and an unsensational one inside of it, had been champion for three years, during which time he had defended the title for the most part against an assortment of challengers who couldn't have, as the saying goes, carried The Fighting Bellhop's jockstrap.

So when Dempsey touted Lavorante to George, the tiny Iowan, without ever having laid eyes on the fighter, sent him $600 to come to the United States to begin a carefully crafted, old-style campaign for what was still regarded as the greatest title in all of sports.

When he got his first look at his investment, George must have wondered if his friend Dempsey had landed too hard on his head when

(Continued on page 62)



...: In July 1962, Lavorante became the 15th ...m of a brash, young contender named ...us Clay. The Argentine fell in the fifth—the ... round Clay had predicted. Inset: Two ...ths after being stopped by Clay, Lavorante ...red a sixth-round kayo at the hands of an ...ccomplished heavyweight named Johnny ...ers. He fell into a coma and never recovered.

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Larry Donald W 10 Dan Murphy
Jorge Luis Gonzalez KO 2 Mike Evans
Jeremy Williams W Disq. 7 Bert Cooper
Frans Botha KO 6 Phil Scott
Tony Tucker KO 2 Cecil Coffee
Bruce Seldon KO 3 Tui Toia
Axel Schulz W 10 Jack Basting
Axel Schulz W 8 Troy Jefferson
Keith McKnight KO 1 Eddie Curry
Z'elko Mavrovic KO 1 Marshall Tillman
Andrew Golota KO 2 Jesse Shelby
Sherman Griffin KO 2 Jose Cruz
Tom Glesby KO 9 Everton Davis
Leon Spinks KO 9 Eddie Curry

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Orlin Norris KO 3 Arthur Williams
(Retains WBA Title)
Sergei Kobozev KO 8 Robert Daniels
Carl Thompson KO 6 Akim Tafer
Akim Tafer KO 2 Ken Jackson
Mark Randazzo KO 3 Lonnie Horn
Torsten May KO 5 Dale Jackson
Saul Montana KO 1 Arnoldo Balbuena

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Rudy Nix KO 2 Ernest Mateen
Ramzi Hassan KO 6 Jimmy Joseph
Isaias Lucero KO 4 Raul Meza
Ray Lathan KO 4 Jesus Castaneda

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Frederic Seillier KO 5 Vincenzo Nardiello
Cecil McKenzie KO 11 Warren Williams

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Vinny Pazienza W 12 Roberto Duran
Rafael Williams KO 6 Charles Brewer
Dana Rosenblatt KO 3 Tyrone Moore
Lonnie Bradley KO 5 Darrell Brooks

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Julio Cesar Green KO 5 Kevin Tillman
Tony Marshall D 10 Andrew Council
Paul Vaden W 12 Jason Papillion
Pat Lawlor W 10 Rene Arredondo
Ernie Artango KO 1 Arman Picar

WELTERWEIGHTS
Buddy McGirt W 10 Kevin Pompey
Hector Camacho W 10 Craig Snyder
Derrell Coley KO 11 Terrence Alli
Derrell Coley KO 5 Israel Figueroa
Rene Herrera KO 8 Jesus Cardenas
Freddy Ladd W 10 Al Bell
Shibata Flores KO 3 Roland Rangel
Lester Ellis KO 3 Arnold Solis
Jeff Malcolm KO 3 Tata Regatuna

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
David Kamau W 12 Raul Hernandez
Tony Lopez KO 10 Greg Haugen
Roger Mayweather KO 3 Marco Antonio Ramirez
Gert Bo Jacobsen KO 3 Jackie Beard
Khalid Rahilou W 12 Valery Kayumba
Soren Sondergaard KO 4 David Santos
Lonnie Smith KO 1 Jerry Strickland

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Steve Johnston KO 9 Sharmba Mitchell
Joey Gamache W 10 Wayne Boudreaux
Jorge Paez W 10 Juan Gomez
Marty Jakubowski W 12 Anthony Boyle
Ivan Robinson W 8 Lyndon Walker
Ivan Robinson W 10 Freddy Valera

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Arturo Gatti KO 1 Pete Taliaferro
Ed Hopson KO 5 Brian Jones
Aldrich Johnson W 10 Jacobin Yoma
Jacobin Yoma D 10 Nabaloum
Carlos Hernandez KO 2 Tommy Valdez
Hector Monjardin KO 1 Ben Lopez

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Tom Johnson KO 12 Benny Amparo
(Retains IBF Title)

…n Kelley KO 6 Georgie Navarro
…-Title Bout)
…g Kyun Park KO 5 Miko Adalim
…y Green W 10 Rudy Zavala
…cisco Soto W 10 Rudy Zavala
…r Soto KO 4 Raul Gutierrez
…el Zaragoza W 10 Francisco Soto
…or Lizarraga W 12 Cedric Mingo
…lfo Castillo KO 9 Eduardo Castillo

…NIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
…redo Vasquez KO 2 Jae Won Choi
…ains WBA Title)
…s Salud KO 10 Juan Valencia
…or Jones W 10 Orlando Fernandez
…hi Kasai KO 7 Francisco Chavez
…hi Kasai KO 2 Ramon Molina
…e Croft KO 4 Jose Luis Vegagil
…gnito Sanchez W 12 Max Gomez

…NTAMWEIGHTS
…ne McCullough W 12 Victor Rabanales
…co Antonio Barrera KO 6 Mike Espinoza
…hiro Tatsuyoshi KO 3 Josefino Suarez
…delo Botile W 12 Derrick Whiteboy
…n Diaz W 12 Eddie Rangel

…NIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
…my Tapia KO 9 Rafael Granillo

…YWEIGHTS
…Sow Ploenchit W 12 Aquiles Guzman
…ains WBA Title)
…Johnson KO 3 Jose Quirino
…Matlala KO 9 Francis Ampofo
…n Fifield KO 4 Ladislao Vasquez

…NIOR FLYWEIGHTS
…Gamez D 12 Hadao CP Gym
…ains WBA Title)
…Griffin KO 3 Silverio Porras
…hi Hosono W 12 Shiro Yahiro

…RAWWEIGHTS
…o Tabanas KO 3 Hang Kyu Chang
…Jong Choi W 10 Al Pong Navaja

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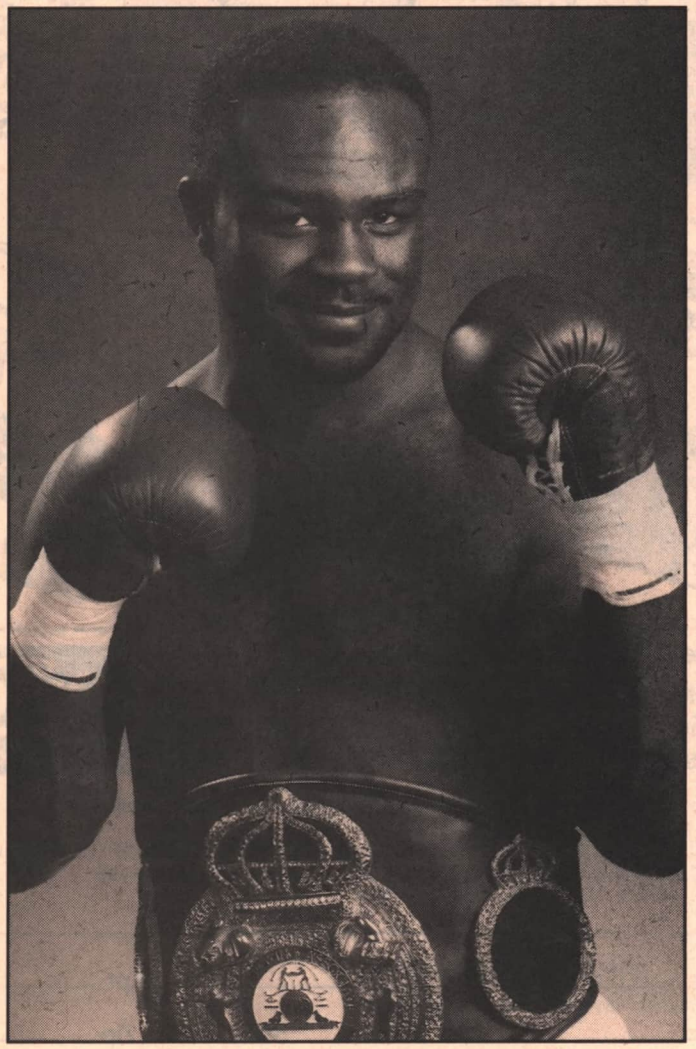
FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

Even before he won the WBA title, Orlin Norris was billed as the best cruiserweight in the world. Once he was crowned, it was assumed he'd overpower all opposition, maybe even unify the title. However, history tells us it's *never* that simple. Norris won the vacant WBA title easily enough, stopping Marcelo Figueroa in six rounds. But in his first defense, he was cut and battered by Arthur Williams. In fact, Norris was lucky to emerge a winner.



It's not yet time to reserve space for Norris in Canastota, but he proved his mettle in the rematch. Williams fought scared, and Norris pummeled him with combinations and overhand rights. The bout lasted less than 2½ rounds. It was a glorious rematch victory in the tradition of Joe Louis or, more recently, Azumah Nelson.

What Norris accomplishes from here remains to be seen. But at least he'll proceed with a clean slate.

••••

Orlin Norris

…io Borboa KO 9 Jaji Sibali

Hammanskraal, South Africa: Defending the IBF junior bantamweight …for the fifth time, Mexico's Borboa, 113¾, was severely tested by South …ca's Sibali, 114½, before forcing the challenger to surrender at the 2:35 …k of round nine before an estimated crowd of 2,500 at the Carousel …ino Resort.

The courageous Sibali was hampered by swelling above and below his …eye from the seventh round to the finish. When a ninth-round right …ed the eye, Sibali, backed to the ropes, turned away, prompting referee …ley Christodoulou (South Africa) to intervene.

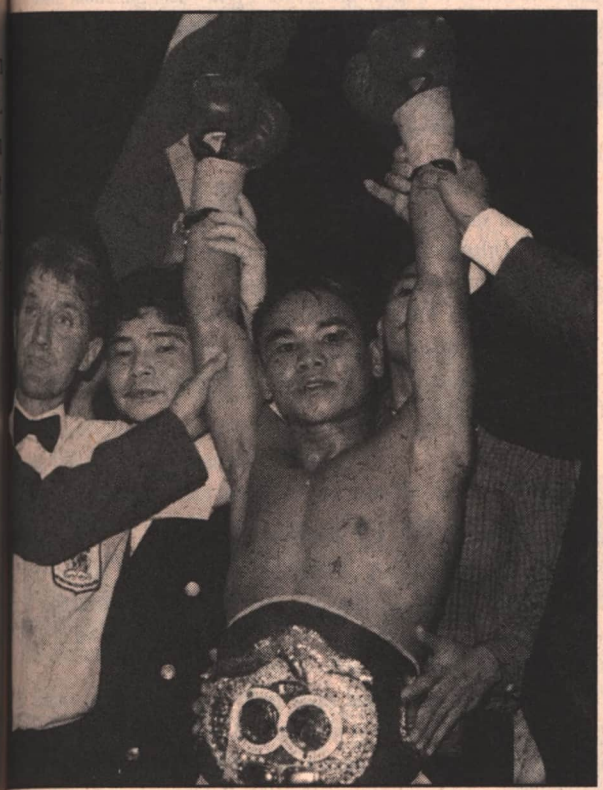
Borboa, 23-4 (20), built a comfortable lead over the first four rounds, …ing with combinations to the head and heavy hooks to the ribs. Just …n Sibali, 19-5-1 (11), appeared to be gaining confidence in the fifth, he …dropped by a right uppercut-left hook combination. He did well to hang …until the bell.

Borboa tried to finish his work in the sixth, but Sibali lasted the round. …zingly, he rallied to trade toe to toe in the seventh and eighth. In the …h, however, his handicap became a major factor, and Borboa applied …sure until the challenger's surrender.

Borboa was ahead on all three cards at the time of the stoppage. The …es were Samuel Conde (Puerto Rico), Eugenia Williams (USA), and …st Green (USA).

(5-21-94)

Ron Jackson



Vorapin makes defense number six

…anapol Sow Vorapin KO 6 Roger Espanola

…Saraburi, Thailand: Hard-punching lefty Vorapin suffered cuts around …eyes but continually attacked against Filipino challenger Espanola and …ed him at the 1:05 mark of round six to retain the IBF mini flyweight …for the sixth time.

Anxious to destroy his lightly regarded opponent, Vorapin, 18-2-1 (13), failed to connect with roundhouse blows in the early rounds. The first of the cuts was opened in the third, courtesy of Espanola's head. There was enough blood for referee Billy Males (Australia) to escort the champion to the ringside physician, who briefly examined Vorapin before allowing the bout to continue.

In the fourth, Vorapin began to steadily pile up points with powerpunches. In the sixth, the Thai connected to both the head and body. Espanola, 15-2-1 (10), went down near his corner and was unable to beat the count.

The judges were Wirat Wilaslak (Thailand), Louise Race (USA), and Bernardo Tijusyono (Indonesia).

"I thought I performed well," said the winner. "I just feel disappointed I couldn't knock him out within three rounds as expected."

Promoter: Col. Bunchu Ongsankoon

(5-14-94)

Joe Koizumi

Ike Quartey KO 11 Crisanto Espana

Levallois Perret, France: With the cold confidence of a deadly assassin, "Bazooka" Quartey, 146, Ghana, eliminated previously unbeaten "Claws" Espana, 146, Belfast, Northern Ireland, via Venezuela, in the 11th round of a scintillating contest to capture the WBA welterweight title at the Palais des Sports Marcel Cerdan. It was Espana's third defense.

Originally arranged for Las Vegas' MGM Grand in March, the encounter proved well worth the wait. The power of Quartey, 26-0 (22), proved conclusive, and if not for Espana's superb conditioning, there might have been an early ending.

Espana, 30-1 (25), began effectively, utilizing superior hand speed to take the opening couple of rounds. The mandatory challenger established himself as a menacing threat over the next few stanzas, landing short, forceful hooks with both hands. Although Espana punched with greater frequency, the more potent blows were being struck by Quartey. Evidence surfaced in the fourth, when blood trickled from a cut above Espana's left eye. The champion seemed unperturbed, but it encouraged Quartey to persist with stiff jabs and straight rights that thudded into Espana ever more intensely.

Despite hurting the Ghanaian in the seventh, Espana could not knock Quartey off his cool, calculated stride, whereas Quartey snapped back the South American's head with regularity. When a definite opportunity arose in the 11th following a precise left-right, Quartey sprung with further numbing shots that forced an eight-count. After that, Quartey fired relentlessly until referee Julio Cesar Alvarado (Panama) stepped in just as the champion slumped onto his back.

After 10 rounds, Lou Tabat (USA) had Espana in front by 96-94, Oscar Perez scored 95-95, and Justo Vasquez (Spain) had Quartey ahead by 99-96.

(6-4-94)

Brian Doogan

San Sow Ploenchit W 12 Aquiles Guzman

Sa Kaew, Thailand: Local favorite and unbeaten WBA flyweight champion Ploenchit, 112, pounded out a well-received majority decision over former champion Guzman, 112, Venezuela. It was the Thai's second defense.

In a total war, the fighters swapped punches in relentless toe-to-toe action. The 23-year-old champion wasn't as sharp as in his title-winning effort vs. David Griman and his first defense against Kiki Rojas. But his

speed and precision enabled him to establish himself as the superior boxer.

Roberto Ramirez (Puerto Rico) scored 117-112, Rodolfo Maldonado (Panama) 117-113, and Uriel Aguilera (Colombia) 115-115.

The 28-year-old Guzman, who, at 5', is six inches shorter than the Thai, initiated the exchanges, and Ploenchit willingly mixed. Starting in the fourth, the champion began to dominate with one-twos and left uppercuts to the body. Guzman, 10-7-3 (6), refused to retreat, but when he answered, Ploenchit blocked most of the blows. Ploenchit's best round was the seventh, when he almost toppled Guzman with right hands. The challenger recklessly rallied over the last two rounds. However, Ploenchit, 19-0 (5), never faltered.

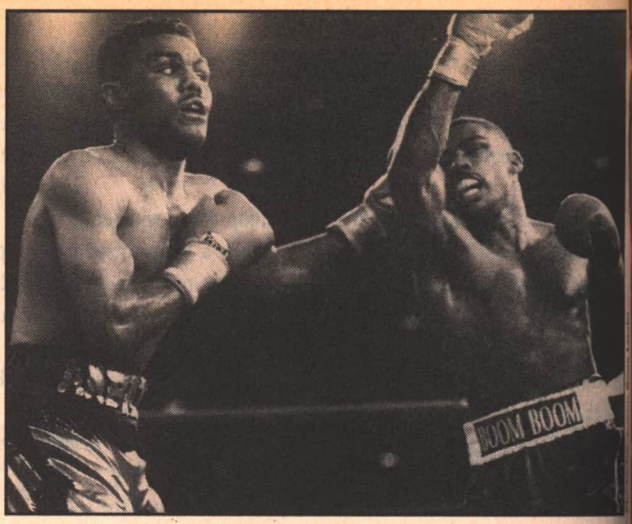
"San is very fast and can fight in several styles," said Omel Vega, Guzman's manager. "He's a very good champ."

The referee was Rafael Ramos (USA).

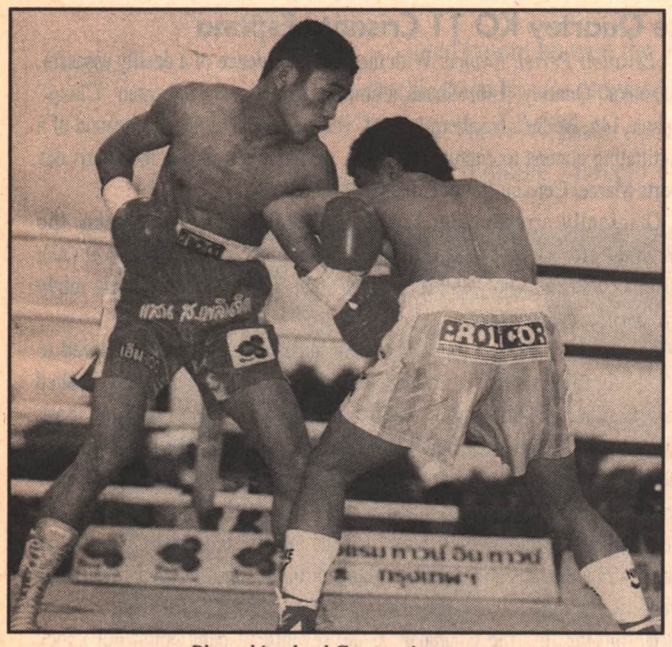
Promoter: Songchai Ratanasuban

(6-12-94)

Joe Koizumi



Amparo wilted when Johnson lowered the boom



Ploenchit edged Guzman in a war

Tom Johnson KO 12 Benny Amparo

Atlantic City: One day the world is going to wake up to the fact that IBF featherweight champion "Boom Boom" Johnson is a damn good fighter. In the meantime, the talented Detroit craftsman continues to defend the title in virtual anonymity. His defense against Amparo, promoted by Garden State Boxing, was supported by foreign TV money and broadcast to only a handful of cities in the USA. Everybody else missed a gem of a fight.

Amparo, 126, Brigantine, New Jersey, hadn't fought since holding Pancho Segura to a draw in July 1993. He took the fight to Johnson, 126, from the opening bell, working his way inside and throwing short combinations. Johnson answered with well-placed counters, and the couple of hundred fans inside Bally's Park Place ballroom were treated to some energetic exchanges.

Amparo, 12-3-5 (5), held his own the first five rounds, but Johnson's ability to nullify the brunt of the challenger's attack, while connecting flush with most of his own blows, kept him in control. Johnson, 36-2-1 (24), was content to fight on the inside during the early rounds. He moved the action to long range midway into the bout, however, and began to pull away.

"I stayed in the pocket a little too long," said Johnson. "I was catching more elbows than punches."

By the seventh round, Amparo was beginning to take a pasting, but he refused to back down. Despite absorbing dozens of shots, he kept charging forward, arms pumping in a vain attempt to overwhelm a technically superior adversary. It was the challenger's gritty determination, more than anything else, that kept interest alive in what was basically a one-sided fight.

Amparo survived a heavy bombardment in the 11th, then launched one last onslaught in the 12th.

"I felt like I needed a knockout to win, so I opened up," he said. "It just didn't work."

It sure didn't. Johnson greeted Amparo's desperate assault with a series of well-aimed shots to the head. Punch after punch thudded home, and referee Tony Orlando (USA) was already rushing in to stop the fight when a final shot sent Amparo tumbling to the canvas.

After 11 rounds, Johnson held a commanding lead on the cards of Al DeVito (108-101), Robert Balough (107-102), and John Witt (107-102). All three judges are from the USA. It was the champion's fourth successful defense in nine months.

(6-11-94)

Nigel Collins

Henry Maske W 12 Andrea Magi

Dortmund, Germany: A compelling affair this was not, as German southpaw Maske, 173¾, unanimously outpointed Italian challenger Magi, 174½, to retain the IBF light heavyweight title before a crowd of 9,500 at the Westfalenhalle. It was his fourth defense.

The bout started slowly and never really improved. Most rounds were characterized by probing, light jabbing, and indifference. Magi, 16-2 (6), was sufficiently aggressive to open a cut on the champion's left eyebrow in the sixth and score a knockdown in the 10th. But those were brief highlights interspersed with 12 otherwise tedious rounds.

Gentle jabs were exchanged during round one, with Maske proving more accurate. The champion declined to throw a single left until the closing 20 seconds, and did so only after referee Robert Gonzalez (USA) called a break. Maske, 24-0 (11), became more assertive in the second and scored with a well-timed left uppercut. Unquestionably the sharper puncher, he began to construct three- and four-punch combinations that occasionally

trated Magi's guard.

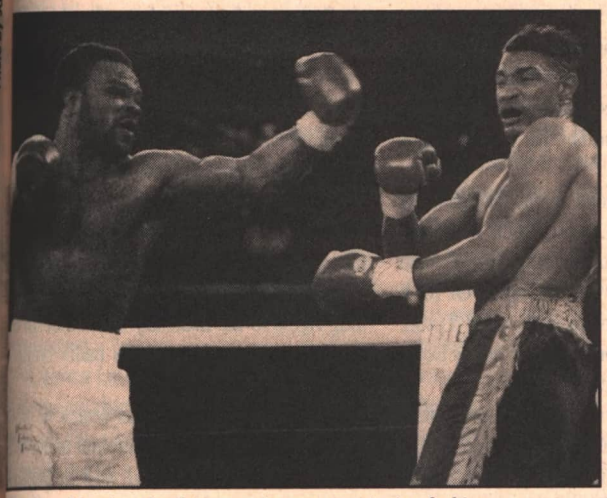
Comfortably in control and deftly avoiding some wide rights, Maske punished for lowering his defense at the end of round 10, Magi walked with a short, stiff right that deposited the German on the seat of his pants. Maske seemed somewhat shaken, but the bell sounded midway through the mandatory eight-count. The champion sailed through the last two rounds.

Leroy Brown (USA) scored 117-112, Heinrich Muehmert (Germany) 114, and Richard Vilano (San Marino) 119-110. THE RING had Maske front by 117-113.

Promoter: Cedric Kushner

(6-4-94)

Brian Doogan



Norris gained revenge in most convincing fashion

Orlin Norris KO 3 Arthur Williams

Las Vegas: Defending the WBA cruiserweight title for the second time—and the second time against Williams—Norris crushed the number-one contender via TKO at 1:03 of the third round before a crowd of 3,500 at The Mirage.

Having struggled to a controversial split decision win over Williams in March, Norris, 188, San Diego, sought a more convincing victory. He stepped out of character with instant offense, and the disappointing Williams, 190, Las Vegas, was annihilated.

Having promised to "take the fight away from the judges with a knockout win," Norris never allowed the 6'2" Williams to get untracked. Perhaps recalling the first-round knockdown he suffered in their first fight, the 29-year-old challenger began in retreat mode, falling short with most of his combinations. Norris, 28, did only minor damage in round one—Williams began bleeding from the nose. However, he opened up in the second with chopping rights to the head. Just before the bell, Williams was driven back toward his corner.

In the third, Norris, 41-3 (23) with 1 no-decision, trapped Williams, 21-3-1 (16), along the ropes with a hook-right. Clearly in distress and unable to keep his hands up, Williams failed to respond as Norris unleashed a 15-punch salvo of jabs, hooks, and uppercuts. After landing a big hook, Norris finished his foe with three hammerlike overhand rights. The third blow pitched Williams onto his right side, and referee Richard Steele (USA) didn't blink an eye in calling a halt.

The judges were Dave Moretti, Chuck Giampa, and Dalby Shirley, all from the USA.

"Norris and Williams did a lot of mouthing off, but now that dispute is settled," said promoter Don King. "Norris can go on to other things."

"I was able to come right out and do what I wanted to," said Norris. "I don't think Williams expected I would take him out that early. I knew he had a jab, but he just kept circling and didn't use it too much. I don't think he wanted to trade punches with me."

Norris earned $110,000 and Williams $50,000.

(7-2-94)

Jack Welsh

Wilfredo Vasquez KO 2 Jae Won Choi

Las Vegas: Dynamite-fisted Vasquez seemed a threat to knock down Choi with every punch he threw in retaining the WBA junior featherweight title for the seventh time by TKO at 1:46 of the second round at The Mirage. The bout was a co-feature with Norris-Williams.

Vasquez, 121½, Bayamon, Puerto Rico, made his first Las Vegas appearance in nearly 10 years. He totally dominated from the opening bell. Mandatory challenger Choi, 122, Seoul, South Korea, offered a light but accurate jab. Otherwise, he was strictly a catcher in his North American debut.

Vasquez, 41-6-3 (33), almost felled the 26-year-old Choi with the first right he fired. He twice knocked the challenger sideways in the first round, and early in the second, a counter right to the jaw dropped Choi, 18-1 (8). Later in the round, a left-right drove Choi down and partially through the ropes. Upon rising, he couldn't maintain his balance, and referee Mitch Halpern (USA) waved the bout over.

"I figured it was all over when I dropped Choi the first time," the 33-year-old champion said through an interpreter. "Of course, I never expected to get him that fast. He was a pretty easy target to hit."

Vasquez said he'd make a couple more defenses at 122 pounds before rising to featherweight.

The judges were Bill Graham (USA), Manuel Gonzalez (Panama), and Marco Rodriguez Jr. (Mexico).

Vasquez earned $75,000 and Choi $15,000.

(7-2-94)

Jack Welsh ■

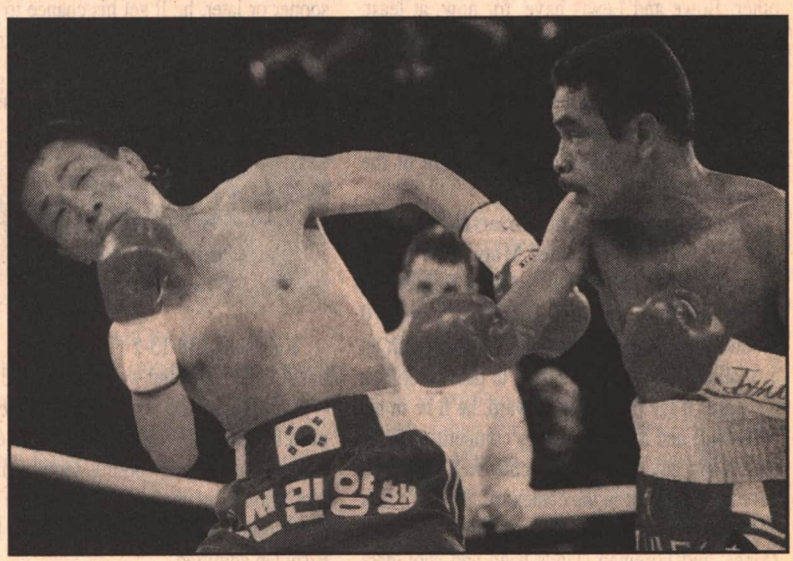


Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

Against Choi, Vasquez couldn't miss

Moorer

(Continued from page 37)

ty. In September, Lewis has to reject the mandatory challenge of Oliver McCall. Assuming he's successful, Panix, Kozerski said, will not have enough lead time to put together a major pay-per-view event.

"They need a much larger window coming off the McCall fight," said Kozerski. "The talk about December is ludicrous. To make they money they want [a minimum of $18-million for Lewis and $13-million for Bowe, according to Newman], there's too much competition [for the entertainment dollar]. Plus, you have the holidays. December isn't a good pay-per-view month."

Moreover, Kozerski questions the impact Bowe-Lewis will have on public perception.

"It's really important we don't go through revisionist history," he said. "Riddick Bowe stepped up to the plate and did very well that first fight with Holyfield. Since then, he's fought Michael Dokes and Jesse Ferguson, who weren't legitimate opponents, and then he stepped into the second fight with Holyfield not in the best of shape and lacking motivation. Now he's canceled fights against Buster Mathis Jr. and Larry Donald. The guy's gotta perform in the ring.

"Rock lives in his own world, and God bless him, but there's more in the world than just Riddick Bowe."

In case you're scoring at home, that's one for the Moorer side, which, with Newman having done most of the talking, stands a diss-tant second.

What is inarguable is that by fighting each other, Bowe and Lewis have, for now, at least, severely limited Moorer's options. Moreover, that long-awaited matchup forces the media, and perhaps the public, too, to reconsider Moorer-Foreman. After all, even before Bowe-Lewis was made, Moorer-Foreman drew the wrath of the boxing writers.

"Do me a favor," said Kozerski. "Tell me who you'd want Michael Moorer to fight. [Indeed, Bowe and Lewis aside, a fighter-by-fighter examination of THE RING's top 10 produced not a single attractive matchup with an available contender.] You have to take George at his word. If the fight goes forward, he'll be in his best shape and it will be a very competitive fight. He's a big guy who still punches well. And you have to consider it in the context of Moorer's first defense. Bowe's first defense was Michael Dokes, and Foreman stands head and shoulders above Dokes."

"The idea of taking a Foreman fight is a good one," said Cayton, continuing the diss-cussion. "It looks like an easy fight for lots of money. But the second defense should be against the best available competition."

Spoken like a true manager. Fight fans, of course, might diss-agree. But if the remainder of 1994 fails to produce a single heavyweight champion, 1995 could make up for it. A unification battle between Moorer and the winner of Bowe-Lewis would seem a natural for April. And after that? Well, Mike Tyson figures to be released in the spring, and he won't need more than a tuneup or two.

"Did you see Tyson in court?" Mike Marley, a publicist for Don King, gushed after the former undisputed champion was denied an early release at a hearing in Indianapolis. "He looked like a *cruiserweight*."

Easy on the assumptions, warns Davimos. "If Riddick wins [against Lewis], Rock will have that championship mentality again. He'll want something like a 90-10 [purse] split. Or he'll want to protect Bowe for [a fight with] Tyson. For Michael, there's no problem. He thinks Bowe is the easiest fight for him."

A late-'95 showdown between the Moorer-Bowe-Lewis survivor and Tyson would be the biggest thing since the diss-covery of electricity. We're talking a $100-million fight, give or take a few pennies.

"Tyson is *always* a consideration," said Newman.

In the meantime, the average fight fan doesn't care about Moorer's image or Lewis' purse splits or whether Rock Newman belongs at the negotiation table or in The Flintstones. The only concern is good fights. At heavyweight, Bowe-Lewis is about as good as it gets. But the fact remains that Moorer has two title belts. Whether sooner or later, he'll get his chance to prove he's the best heavyweight in the world. And he'll do so with his fists, which, in his world, are all he needs to deal with those who have dissed him. ■

McCullough

(Continued from page 39)

Rabanales, 38-13-2 (19), won the first round on all three cards and wobbled McCullough, 13-0 (11), in the second with a right to the chin. The punch not only momentarily silenced the Irishman's raucous rooting section, it also sent McCullough an unmistakable message.

"I found out he was stronger than I was," the Irishman admitted.

When a fighter of McCullough's ilk, one who revels in toe-to-toe punchouts, discovers the other guy is physically superior, it usually results in disaster. But McCullough has the ability to adjust—plus he has an ace in the hole in Futch. They revamped the battle plan between rounds and quicker than you could say *Erin go bragh*. The Pocket Rocket was transformed into a fencing foil.

McCullough kept his distance and countered well in the third, utilizing boxing skills unseen in his previous pro bouts. He was, however, lured back into trench warfare in the fourth and suffered the consequences.

Referee Arthur Mercante helped McCullough's cause by penalizing Rabanales in the fifth for punching low, but the Mexican refused to be cowed and belabored the body throughout much of the sixth. Then, just before the bell, McCullough flared back with a spirited rally.

McCullough kept up the work in the seventh and eighth, combining savvy movement and solid punching. But Rabanales, 31, was still in the hunt, and he rattled McCullough in the ninth with long rights to the head. By the end of the round, McCullough's right eye was badly bruised and beginning to swell.

Rabanales continued his attack in the 10th, swinging wildly in a futile attempt to put the fight beyond reach. Both scored well in the see-saw 11th, but it was McCullough who closed the show with style in the 12th, moving nimbly from side to side and peppering the onrushing Mexican with sharp counters. The metamorphosis that began in the earlier rounds was complete. And in the final seconds ticked down, McCullough looked thoroughly comfortable in his new role as artful dodger.

Despite McCullough's convincing finish, it was an extremely close fight. THE RING scored it 114-113 for McCullough. Walter Schall (115-113) also had it close, but Vinnie Rainone (117-110) and Jack Woodruff (116-110) gave Rabanales and his representative, Rafael Mendoza, plenty to squawk about.

"He's a strong kid," Rabanales said through a translator. "He took all my punches and never went down. But I know, and the people know, who won the fight."

"Boxing should be ashamed of the scores," said Mendoza. "A close call in a close fight is understandable. But *six* points? That's incredible. I am not saying McCullough lost or that he won. What I am telling you is that before Rabanales went into the ring, he already had lost."

Futch, the architect of McCullough's expanding skills, did not agree.

"I thought the decision was well-deserved," he said. "[McCullough] was hit once or twice with telling punches, but Rabanales also missed a lot. Rabanales looked good when he connected, but he

n't connect that often. Wayne was piling up
ts with a very fine left jab. I thought he did
ugh to win the fight with just the jab."

Tinley was even more expansive: "I liken this
ht to Sugar Ray Leonard's first fight with
erto Duran; a high-profile prospect out of the
mpics against a tough-as-nails guy with a ton of
erience. The big difference is that Wayne won."

Tinley, Futch, and the rest of McCullough's
mp were not the only ones impressed with his
owing. Former WBC lightweight champion Jim
tt, a ringside analyst for ITV, said, "The
oring was terrible, but Wayne won the fight. He
ggled a bit, but he answered a lot of questions.
proved he can box as well as fight. He also
owed he has a good chin and a great ticker."

Even though McCullough has a title shot
wn up, Futch wants a bit more seasoning. The
st blastoff for The Pocket Rocket is tentatively
heduled for September, in Dublin, against
other former WBC bantamweight boss, Greg
chardson. With a title shot so close at hand,
king an adversary as skillful as Richardson is
tly risky business. But Tinley doesn't seem
ghtly worried.

"We have a lot of respect for Richardson, but
's inconceivable to me that he could keep
yne off for 12 rounds," said the manager.
e's slick, but he's not a big puncher. What's he
na do?"

Despite McCullough's speedy rise to
minence, Tinley still doesn't think the fighter
getting the attention he deserves, especially in
e USA.

"Everybody talks about Oscar De La Hoya
e he's some monster, but let's compare him to
yne," said Tinley. "Granted, De La Hoya won
old medal and Wayne only won a silver, but
ce they've turned pro, Wayne has performed
uch better. De La Hoya has never fought
ybody anywhere near as good as Rabanales.
d the guys he is fighting, guys you've never
ard of, are knocking him down. I just don't see
at all the fuss is about. Wayne has already
owed a lot more than De La Hoya has."

It's hard to argue with Tinley's point of view.
hen McCullough was running roughshod over
scure clubfighters during the first half of his
-month pro career, you always wondered what
uld happen when he finally stepped up to the
g time. Bludgeoning faded former contender
rome Coffee into a sixth-round knockout defeat
st November didn't provide any answers.
either did stopping light-punching prospect
vier Medina for the vacant NABF title in
nuary. But the spunk, stamina, and adaptability
cCullough displayed in squeezing past
abanales certainly did.

Irish soccer fans were let down when The
etherlands eliminated their team from World Cup contention. But at least those who made a side trip to watch McCullough didn't go home without smiling. The Ol' Sod has given rise to a new hope. We don't know yet if he's another McGuigan, but we know a lot more than we did before the Rabanales fight—and all of it's good. ■

Hall of Fame

(Continued from page 42)

signed hundreds of autographs. Though Moorer fights as a southpaw, he's right-handed. It's a good thing because his left hand was in a cast following recent surgery. Although Moorer laughed off playful barbs from Holmes and Buster Mathis Jr. during the banquet, he did say quite forcefully, "I plan on being champion for as long as I want."

For the most part, it was a light-hearted weekend, with the former champions swapping war stories, never conceding that one could beat the other, but agreeing that today's fighters are not as good as yesterday's. But things got nasty at the banquet, when Foster used the occasion to trash WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill. Foster, who holds the record for defenses at 175 pounds, isn't thrilled the 20-year-old mark is about to be broken by Hill, whom he holds in low regard. Foster can usually be counted on to share an anecdote that leaves the crowd laughing. However, he degraded Hill and closed his remarks with a cheap and tasteless shot: "The asshole can't fight."

***

No one has ever questioned the abilities of legendary bantamweight king Zarate, who came to Canastota all the way from Mexico City. Accompanying him was fellow 118-pound legend Ruben Olivares. Though Olivares, who was on hand for his own induction in 1991, had briefed his countryman about the weekend, Zarate was still taken aback. Upon gazing at the display case that houses Pep's two RING championship belts, Zarate was awestruck and shouted an excited expletive.

That's exactly what most of Zarate's opponents must have thought after they got tagged for the first time by one of the hardest punchers in the history of the lighter weights. En route to the title, Zarate stopped all but one of his 32 opponents. His reputation was so great that he was a 2-1 favorite to wrest the WBC crown from countryman Rodolfo Martinez, which he did via ninth-round kayo in May 1976.

Though Zarate made nine successful defenses, his biggest fight was a non-title affair vs. another Mexican, powerpunching WBA champion Alfonso Zamora, in April 1977. Politics prevented "The Z Boys" from unifying the title.

"It was for *the title*, not title belts," Zarate pointedly said through an interpreter. "Everyone knew what was at stake." The 10-rounder, which was held at the Fabulous Forum (now the Great Western Forum), was the matchup of the year. Zarate, who had made three defenses, entered at 38-0 (37); Zamora, who had made five defenses, was 28-0 (28).

"I knew he could hit, but it was still a bit of a shock when he caught me on the chin in the first round," Zarate said. "But that just reminded me to stay focused." Round two was even, but Zarate began to dominate in the third and scored three knockdowns before the bout was stopped in the fourth.

In 1978, Zarate challenged another unbeaten fighter, Wilfredo Gomez, for the Puerto Rican's WBC 122-pound belt. The Mexican claims he entered the ring dehydrated and with a fever. Explaining his fifth-round kayo loss, he said matter of factly, "I had nothing."

He returned to bantamweight and made one more defense before losing the title in June 1979 to Lupe Pintor by 15-round decision in Las Vegas. It was one of the most controversial verdicts in years. Zarate was so disgusted with the decision that he retired without seeking a rematch. "I was heartbroken," he said. His self-imposed exile lasted 6½ years. When he came back, he was unsuccessful in bids for the 122-pound title, losing to Jeff Fenech and Daniel Zaragoza. He retired for good in 1988.

During the weekend, Zarate was often asked what the outcome of a bout vs. Olivares would have been. "Ruben and I kid each other about who would have won," he said. "We have fun with it." When pressed for a winner, he would only say, "I don't consider myself any better or worse than Ruben. We were both great champions. And now we are part of a family of great champions."

***

Michael Spinks' boxing family was on hand to see him honored. Spinks, who made history by becoming the first light heavyweight champion to win the heavyweight title when he outpointed Holmes in 1985, accomplished perhaps his last historical ring feat: At 37, he became the Hall's youngest inductee. He used the occasion to say thanks to those present who helped him on his road to greatness: "I take in with me my brother Leon, Eddie Futch, my promoter, Butch Lewis, and Don Majeski [Lewis' former matchmaker]."

Members of the Class of '94 who are deceased include former champions Jackie "Kid" Berg, John Henry Lewis, Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, and Pancho Villa. The Non-Participants

wing welcomed radio and TV announcer Sam Taub and referee Ruby Goldstein. Ben Brain and Paddy Duffy, both of whom fought before 1892, were voted into the Pioneer wing.

Two inductees who were too ill to attend were former heavyweight champion Jack Sharkey, who lives in a nursing home in Massachusetts, and promoter Chris Dundee, Angelo's older brother. The 91-year-old Sharkey, boxing's oldest living champion, was represented by his son, Jack Jr., grandson, Jack III, and great grandson, Jack IV. Said Sharkey Jr., "My dad had an expression he was fond of: 'It's nice to be remembered and hell to be forgotten.' Thanks for remembering him."

Making sure no one forgets these gallant men or the battles they waged has been the IBHF's mission since it opened. Every year acceptance has grown. More and more fighters are beginning to realize that winning a world title won't necessarily be their crowning achievement. For when they finally hang up the gloves, they won't ask, "Was I a great champion?" Instead, they can be like other athletes and wonder, "Am I a Hall of Famer?" ■

***Ed Maloney, a regular at the Hall of Fame's weekend, is a former associate editor of* THE RING.**

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

is the classic tale of a street kid channeling his fighting ability into a way up and a way out. Looking back on his youth in Northeast Washington, Holmes says he can't even imagine what it would be like fighting on the streets, where so many arguments between teenagers are settled with handguns.

"I grew up in Paradise, a Northeast neighborhood, but it was more like hell," he said. "It was rough, *very* rough. And as I grew older, it got worse."

Holmes was raised by his mother, now deceased, and his grandmother. His father lives in California. His brother, Dion, is in prison on an assault conviction. Holmes dropped out of high school in the 11th grade.

"I really got mixed up in the streets," said the fighter, who has two daughters, ages three and seven, and lives with his grandmother in Bladensburg, Maryland. "I can let you in on one streetfight. A guy came into the neighborhood and got into a fight with a friend of mine. After I won the fight, he had a girlfriend out there. I saw him come out of her house and I said, 'Let's see what you can do with me.' I was like 12 and he was like 14. I was always small, but with the first two punches I knocked him cold. Right from then I realized I could fight, and I was never fearful."

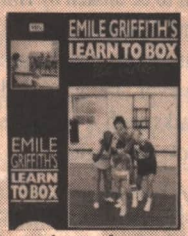
As early as age nine, Holmes was joining older friends for boxing lessons at the Kenilworth Parkside Recreation Center. Entranced watching Marvelous Marvin Hagler and Thomas Hearns on TV, "Little Keith," as he was called, announced "I want to be one."

Holmes engaged in about 70 amateur fights and, in 1979-80, won the Ohio State Fair title at 119 pounds. "The old guys would tell me I had a pretty style," he recalled. "I didn't know what they meant at the time, but I was relaxed, taking my time."

Still, Holmes ran the streets. "I was always in the neighborhood, gambling, shooting dice," he said. "I have seen a lot of things in my life, gun shot, robberies. I wondered why it never happened to me."

Over the last two years of his amateur career, Holmes fought out of Maryland's Round One gym, headed by Adrian Davis, who currently trains Simon Brown, Razor Ruddock, and Robert

EMILE GRIFFITH'S LEARN TO BOX THE VIDEO



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...iels. His first paid bout came in October ... "I didn't want him to turn pro," said Davis. ... would have liked him to be the all-American ... in the Olympics, but he just couldn't get up ... the amateur fights.

"He had a life, I'll tell you that," continued ..., who preferred not to elaborate on Holmes' ... "Keith had a lot of distractions."

Holmes fought nine times under Davis, losing ... what the trainer called a hometown decision to ...ladelphia's Ron Hammond in July 1990. Then ... a long layoff. "Some other activity started ... on the outside and he stopped coming ...," recalled Davis. "Then I lost the gym."

It was a bad time for both fighter and trainer. ...mes had a fractured thumb and a shoulder ...blem, and Davis had nowhere to train his ...ters. For two years Holmes drifted. He ...veled to Detroit and briefly flirted with the ...k gym, but didn't like the terms offered. He ... tried to hook up with trainer Kevin Rooney, ... that didn't work out either. He finally ended ... back with Davis—at Satellite.

One day early in 1993, lightweight Sharmba ...chell, who lives in nearby Takoma Park, told ...mes about how Wade Keel and his brother ... were opening a new gym in Virginia and ...king for talented fighters. When Holmes ...owed up, the Keels immediately began ...wering him with attention.

"They didn't have the connections," recalled ...mes, "but I said, 'I'm willing to let them learn ... me.' When you think about it, I was also at ...bottom."

Holmes was briefly reunited with Davis, but ... the time the welterweight returned to the ring, ... trainer was gone. (The Keels wanted Davis to ...ote his full time to Satellite.) With Wade Keel ...ining him and Eric Bottjer (also no longer with ...ellite) carefully making the matches, Holmes ...an his ascent.

In November 1993, Holmes fought Harold ...nnett in Richmond. At the weigh-in, Bennett ...ed 154 and, according to Holmes, said, "You ... take the fight or go home." Holmes knocked ... out in three rounds.

"I humiliated him," he said. "When he came ... he said, 'We'll do it again.' I said, 'You don't ...ly want to.'"

In January, Holmes passed his toughest test, ...ring a unanimous 12-round decision over ...ty Jeff Johnson for the USBA Southern ...terweight title. The belt may be worth little, ... the fight was close to championship-caliber.

Since beating Johnson, Holmes has racked up ... more wins, culminating with the blowout of ...ks. The Johnson and Banks bouts illustrate his ...atility. Against Johnson, he fought a circling, ...ving fight in ring-center. With a tenacious but ...fensive opponent in front of him, Holmes exercised patience and racked up points. Against Banks, he sensed a big edge in power and quickly maneuvered the fellow southpaw toward the ropes, working to the head and body behind his jab.

With his dreams suddenly within reach, Holmes has approached his work with maturity. He speaks of someday being able to give money to the Kenilworth Parkside Recreation Center, where he got his start; he wants to get more involved in Christianity; and he worries about financial security and the future of his daughters.

"He spends quality time with his children," said Wade Keel. "His grandmother has got him pretty deep into the church. His whole focus on life has changed. He's changed from an inner-city kid not going anywhere to a young professional with the slight possibility to do something for his family. And I don't have to beg him to come to war ..."

Consider that a warning. For the rest of the welterweight division, it's time to study up on the competition. ■

John Scheinman, a frequent contributor to* THE RING, *is based in Washington, D.C.

Marciano

(Continued from page 23)

10. KO 2 Bob Jefferson, October 4, 1948, Providence: Marciano easily dispatches the harmless Jefferson, but injures the middle knuckle of his right hand in the process. The injury shelves him for seven weeks.

11. KO 1 Pat "Red" Connolly, November 29, 1948, Providence: Gaining revenge for an embarrassing sparring session during his amateur days, Marciano, 185, flattens the 6'5", 213-pound Connolly, 8-6, with one left hook at the 57-second mark.

12. KO 2 Gilley Ferron, December 14, 1948, Philadelphia: Today meets Tomorrow, with soon-to-retire heavyweight champion Joe Louis boxing an exhibition vs. Arturo Godoy on the card. Marciano again injures his right hand as he stops Ferron with several shots to the head.

13. KO 5 Johnny Pretzie, March 21, 1949, Providence: A converted southpaw, Boston's Pretzie finishes on his feet despite suffering three knockdowns in the fourth and fifth rounds. The bout is halted at the 1:46 mark.

14. KO 1 Artie Donato, March 28, 1949, Providence: New Jersey's Donato, 201¾, outweighs Marciano by almost 20 pounds and initiates a slugfest. The war lasts all of 33 seconds, with a single overhand right bringing a violent end.

15. KO 3 James Walls, April 11, 1949, Providence: Fighting for the first time since

(Continued on page 56)

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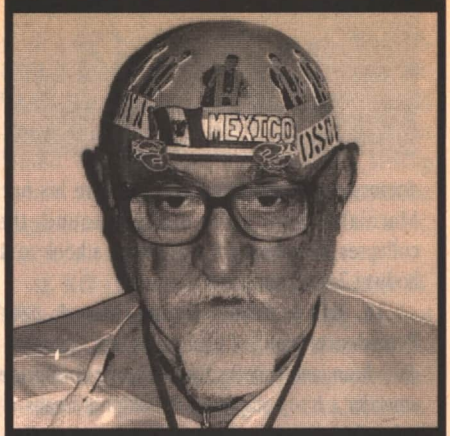

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Marciano

(Continued from page 55)

doctors diagnosed a pinched nerve in his back, Marciano gives away the first round, then collapses New Jersey's Walls with a hook to the body at 2:41 of the third.

16. KO 3 Jimmy Evans, May 2, 1949, Providence: Matched against his best opponent to date, Marciano benefits from what most ringsiders consider a hasty stoppage. Brooklyn's Evans, 17-6-1, wins the second round, but is pummeled in the third and spared further punishment by referee Ben Maculan at the 2:44 mark.

17. W 10 Don Mogard, May 23, 1949, Providence: A boxer with featherfists, Paterson, New Jersey's Mogard, who has never been stopped, becomes the first fighter to take Marciano the distance. The Rock wins eight of 10 rounds. With Weill now matchmaker for Madison Square Garden, his stepson, Marty Weill, becomes Marciano's manager of record.

18. KO 3 Harry Haft, July 18, 1949, Providence: The 22-year-old Haft, a concentration camp survivor from Austria, spots Marciano 10 pounds but willingly trades. He lasts till 2:21 of round three, when Marciano connects with a left to the stomach and a right to the head.

19. KO 3 Pete Louthis, August 16, 1949, New Bedford, Massachusetts: Suffering from a bad back, Marciano can barely move. Fortunately, Rhode Island's Louthis offers little competition, though The Rock does emerge with a mouse under his left eye. A left hook brings the finish at the 1:45 mark.

20. KO 4 Tommy Giorgio, September 26, 1949, Providence: His back presenting no problems, Marciano scores three knockdowns and halts Schenectady, New York's Giorgio at the 2:04 mark of the fourth.

21. W 10 Ted Lowry, October 10, 1949, Providence: With a reported record of 56-45, New England light heavy champ Lowry, 177¾, absorbs a beating to the body but nonetheless extends Marciano. (Lowry had previously gone the route with Lee Savold and Archie Moore.) Michael J. Thomas of the *Providence Journal* gives Lowry the first four rounds and scores for "Tiger Ted" by 6-4 in rounds.

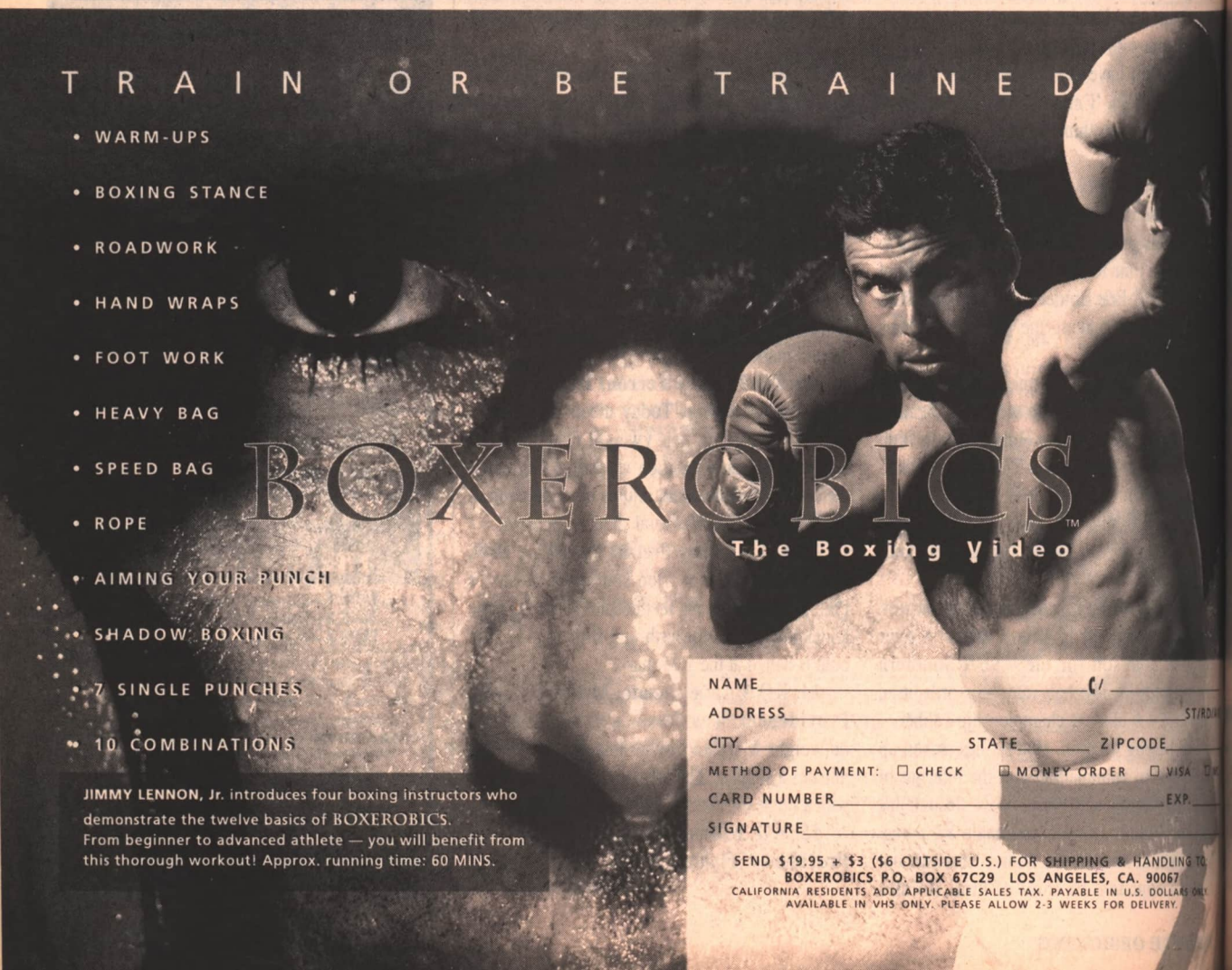
22. KO 2 Joe Domonic, November 7, 1949, Providence: Rapidly running out of local competition, Marciano drops Springfield, Massachusetts' Domonic three times in a toe-to-toe slugfest. Dominic hadn't been floored in 2 previous efforts.

23. KO 2 "Irish" Pat Richards, December 2, 1949, New York City: Making his Big Apple debut as the semifinal to Roland LaStarza-Cesar Brion at Madison Square Garden, Marciano scores knockdowns in the first and second rounds and halts Columbus, Ohio's Richards at the 2:[illegible] second mark.

24. KO 5 Phil Muscato, December 19, 194[illegible] Providence: The Rock is catching on; 6,775 fans attend his battle with Buffalo's Muscato at the Providence Auditorium. Incredibly, Muscato suffers nine knockdowns but finishes on his feet with the bout halted at the 1:15 mark.

25. KO 6 Carmine Vingo, December 3[illegible] 1949, New York City: With a record of 16-1, the 6'4", 189-pound Vingo is Marciano's sternest test to date. The New Yorker falls in the first and second, but brawls bravely until caught by a left hook at 1:46 of the sixth. As he crashes, his head hits the canvas and he falls unconscious. Vingo is hospitalized for six weeks and never fights again.

26. W 10 Roland LaStarza, March 24, 195[illegible] New York City: In one of the most anticipated



ches of heavyweight hopefuls in history, ciano edges previously unbeaten New York erpuncher LaStarza, 37-1, at Madison Square den by rounds scores of 5-4-1, 5-5 (9-6 on), and 4-5-1. The key: The Rock drops his ear-old foe with a right hand in round four.

27. KO 3 Eldridge Eatman, June 5, 1950, vidence: In need of a gimme win, Marciano es a career-high 189¼ and fells Connecticut's rworn Eatman three times in three rounds.

28. KO 10 Gino Buonvino, July 10, 1950, ston: Go figure: Known for having a weak n, Italy's Buonvino survives knockdowns in nds one and nine and lasts until the 25-second k of the final round.

29. KO 6 Johnny Shkor, September 18, 50, Providence: Boston's 6'5", 220¼-pound r employs mauling tactics and opens a nasty on Marciano's left eyelid. Marciano does all e effective punching, scoring one knockdown e fifth and three more in the sixth.

30. W 10 Ted Lowry, November 13, 1950, vidence: Far more impressive than in his al outing vs. Lowry, Marciano loses only two nds and almost halts "Tiger Ted" in the 10th. The Rock, "I think Lowry would have gone distance if we had fought 100 times."

31. KO 1 Bill Wilson, December 18, 1950, vidence: A late substitute from Charlotte, th Carolina, the 6'2", 229-pound Wilson lasts 110 seconds. The bout is halted after rciano opens a five-stitch cut over his ponent's left eye.

32. KO 8 Keene Simmons, January 29, 1951, vidence: Fighting for the first time since his riage to Barbara Cousins, Marciano struggles re stopping New Jersey's Simmons at 2:54 of eighth. Simmons hurts Marciano with a right in round one and opens a cut over The Rock's eye in the second. From the third through the th, Simmons is issued a beating.

33. KO 2 Harold Mitchell, March 20, rtford, Connecticut: After laying off seven eks because of the cut suffered in the Simmons t, Marciano crushes Atlantic City's Mitchell, ring three knockdowns and forcing a stoppage :45 of the second.

34. KO 9 Art Henri, March 26, 1951, vidence: Veteran New York City heavy- ght Henri has never beaten a name heavy- ght, and after four competitive rounds, he x. Marciano scores three knockdowns in the th, with the end coming at the 2:51 mark.

35. W 10 Red Applegate, April 30, 1951, vidence: Having fought only twice in two rs, Newark, New Jersey's Applegate shows his t but lasts the distance. Banking on his superior nditioning, Marciano wins eight rounds despite rificing the third for punching low.

36. KO 6 Rex Layne, July 12, 1951, New York City: A Mormon from Lewiston, Utah, the 23-year-old Layne, 34-1-2 (24), climbs through the Madison Square Garden ropes a 7-5 favorite. But Marciano launches a brutal body attack and finishes his foe with a right 35 seconds into the sixth. The payoffs: The Rock becomes number-one contender and lands an appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

37. KO 4 Freddie Beshore, August 27, 1951, Boston: For the first time, Marciano faces an opponent who has fought for the world title. (Beshore was halted by Ezzard Charles in August 1950.) The native of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, lasts until the 50-second mark of the fourth, when he's downed for the count by a flurry to the head. It's the first knockdown of his career.

38. KO 8 Joe Louis, October 26, 1951, New York City: Former world champ Louis is 37, but he's won eight straight, and 17,241 fans fill Madison Square Garden. The 6'2", 212-pound "Brown Bomber" utilizes his nine-inch reach advantage by jabbing, but Marciano is relentless. He twice downs Louis in the eighth and stops him at the 2:36 mark. It is the last bout of Louis' career.

39. KO 6 Lee Savold, February 13, 1952, Philadelphia: Though Marciano often misses badly, the 35-year-old Savold takes a beating; he bleeds from the mouth, nose, and cuts around both eyes. There are no knockdowns, with Savold's corner surrendering before the start of the seventh.

40. KO 2 Gino Buonvino, April 21, 1952, Providence: In the second rematch of Marciano's five-year career, Buonvino's suspect jaw proves his downfall, with The Rock dropping him for the count with a looping right to the jaw at the 1:35 mark.

41. KO 3 Bernie Reynolds, May 12, 1952, Providence: In a breathless war, Connecticut's Reynolds staggers Marciano in the first and second, then falls from a right to the temple at 2:21 of the third. Immediately after, Marciano begins a 30-day suspension for having engaged in an exhibition in Maine with his brother Sonny, who was billed as promising Boston amateur Peter Fuller.

42. KO 2 Harry "Kid" Matthews, July 28, 1952, New York City: Only Seattle light heavy Matthews, 78-3-6, and the winner of 46 straight, stands between Marciano and a title shot. The 179-pounder isn't strong enough to hold off The Rock, who finishes him with two big hooks before a crowd of 31,000 at Yankee Stadium. The bout marks the return of Al Weill as manager of record.

43. KO 13 Jersey Joe Walcott, September 23, 1952, Philadelphia: Making his second defense, Walcott, 38, drops Marciano with a hook in round one. Though The Rock rallies in a fast-paced contest, he trails on the cards after 12 rounds. In the 13th, Marciano wins the title with the most famous punch ever thrown, a short, straight right. Walcott is counted out at the 43-second mark.

44. KO 1 Jersey Joe Walcott, May 15, 1953, Chicago: In the obligatory rematch, Marciano strikes early, downing the 39-year-old former champ with a left hook-right uppercut combo. Walcott takes the count in a sitting position and rises at 10½. (He later claims referee Frank Sikora issued a fast count.) The bout, Walcott's last, is over at the 2:25 mark.

45. KO 11 Roland LaStarza, September 24, 1953, New York City: In their long-awaited rematch, LaStarza boxes neatly for six rounds. Marciano breaks through in the seventh and finishes the New Yorker in the 11th. A cross-hook combo drops LaStarza, and seconds after he rises, referee Ruby Goldstein intervenes at the 1:31 mark. "He's a 5,000 percent better fighter now," says the loser.

46. W 15 Ezzard Charles, June 17, 1954, New York City: Former champ Charles, a 7-2 underdog, boxes for the first four rounds, opening a deep cut on The Rock's left brow. Shockingly, the challenger trades over the second half, matching Marciano's right with his hook. In what he calls the toughest bout of his career, Marciano triumphs by

(Continued on page 58)

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Marciano

(Continued from page 57)

rounds scores of 8-5-2, 8-6-1, and 9-5-1.

47. KO 8 Ezzard Charles, September 17, 1954, New York City: Marciano floors Charles in the second, but at the end of the sixth, two hooks split the tip of the champ's nose, and in the seventh, he's cut on the left brow. Bleeding badly in the eighth and sensing an imminent stoppage, Marciano firmly establishes his greatness, twice flooring Charles, who is counted out at 2:36.

48. KO 9 Don Cockell, May 16, 1955, San Francisco: Cockell challenges for the title in a 16½-foot ring, which, against Marciano, might as well be a phone booth. A 9-1 favorite, Marciano starts slowly before weakening the brave Englishman with a body attack. Cockell falls once in the ninth and twice in the 10th, with referee Frankie Brown calling a halt at the 59-second mark.

49. KO 9 Archie Moore, September 21, 1955, New York City: Marciano faces light heavy champ Moore, 41, before 61,574 at Yankee Stadium. A counter right drops The Rock in the second, but he methodically breaks down "The Ol' Mongoose's" cross-armed defense and scores two knockdowns in the sixth, one in the seventh, and another in the eighth. A cross-hook combo drops the challenger for the count at 1:19 of the ninth.

April 27, 1956, New York City: Marciano, age 32, announces his retirement. The only champion in history to leave the ring without a loss, he exits with a record of 49-0 (43). ■

Injuries

(Continued from page 27)

State study, it is apparent that football is getting more dangerous each season.

The range of football injuries is wide, ranging from contusions to paralysis. When New York Jets defensive lineman Dennis Byrd was briefly paralyzed in 1992, it came just 54 weeks after the Detroit Lions' Mike Utley suffered a similar fate. While Byrd has recovered, Utley remains in a wheelchair.

The range of boxing injuries is wide as well. But while serious football injuries often involve knees and shoulders, serious boxing injuries almost always involve the brain.

"There is more potential for serious injury in boxing, but if you ask me what sport damages the body more, it's football," said Homansky.

Three professors, including one doctor, at Johns Hopkins University are conducting a study of amateur boxers they hope will shed new light on brain injuries. By developing a device called an accelerometer, which is to be placed in the fighter's headgear, they hope to determine what head motion causes persistent brain damage by measuring the speed and direction of the movement.

"Sports like this will never be banned," said Nicholas Jones, one of the professors in the study. "Our view is if we can learn as much about the mechanics of the process [of boxing] as possible, then we can make it as safe as it possibly can be."

Critics of professional boxing have lobbied to make it more like amateur boxing, which, on the surface, appears safer than the pro game. But is it? Opponents of professional boxing point to three-round fights and the mandatory use of headgear in amateur fights as safety precautions that greatly reduce injury. That may be misleading.

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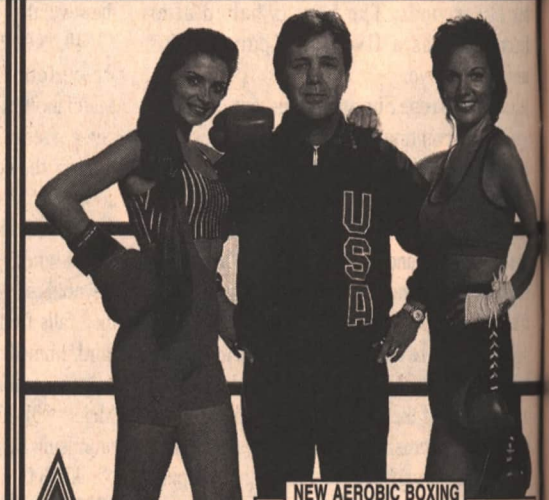

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does that thin competition headgear prevent," said Pete Brodsky, a former pro light heavyweight and president of the New York Metropolitan Amateur Boxing Federation. "Other than preventing a cut over the eye, I really don't know how much of the punch it absorbs. In that regard, the thick headgear pros use in the gym is much better."

Many in the industry believe amateur and professional boxing are two different sports and should be treated as such. It is often overlooked that when an amateur competes in a major tournament, like the Olympic Trials or the U.S. Championships, he is at times required to fight two or three times in a 48-hour period.

"If you go to the Olympic Trials, you have the best eight fighters in the country competing," said Brodsky. "These kids are very good. That's a tough 48 hours. You probably subject yourself to more punishment than you would in a six- or eight-round fight."

Brodsky feels pro boxing is "100 percent safer" than when he fought in the late-'70s. "Very rarely do you see a guy get thumbed anymore," he said. "And in most states, the ref will step in and give a standing eight-count about as quickly as they do in amateur boxing. So I don't think amateur boxing rules necessarily provide any more safety than the pros. I think in amateur boxing they should let the kids put a little Vaseline on their face. It can only help." [The globs of Vaseline applied to a pro fighter's face allows punches to slide off their target, thus softening the impact. The Vaseline also helps prevent cuts.]

The standing eight-count, regularly applied in the amateurs, is being used more often in professional boxing. It's available at the referee's discretion in approximately half the states with boxing commissions. Gordon is a staunch supporter of the rule and has campaigned to make it mandatory. However, Czyz and many other fighters are opposed to the rule, arguing that it puts a puncher at a disadvantage by giving an injured fighter time to recover.

"When a fighter's knees buckle, that's a sign that there has been a temporary minor concussion," said Gordon. "If you don't step in, he's going to take a few more bombs in a concussed state. A ref who uses the standing-eight will only add to the safety of boxing."

There are pitfalls even in the safety-conscious era. While prefight testing has eliminated numerous problems, it did little for Bentt and Holyfield. Both fighters passed physicals but entered the ring with serious ailments. Officials suggest they were aberrations.

"Truthfully, there is no way Evander's condition could have been picked up before the fight unless he said something," said Homansky, who examined the fighter before and after the Michael Moorer bout.

"Evander never exhibited symptoms of anything," said Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, which sanctioned Moorer-Holyfield. "Unless there are certain symptoms, the general testing will never show it. The kind of testing he would have had to taken, you couldn't do it in an hour. They did a catheterization of the heart. Some things are just going to get by. But I think the situations with Michael [Bentt] and Evander were both highly unusual."

There was a contributing factor to Bentt's problem. While training for his bout with Hide, he was observing an Islamic fasting period that in all likelihood left him in a weakened condition. In fact, during training, which ran concurrent with a month-long fast known as Ramadhan, Bentt passed out in the gym when he bent down to pick up a speedbag. After the fight, Bentt also blacked out on the plane ride from London to New York. After he was revived, manager Stan Hoffman gave him a Gatorade-type drink and chocolates and the fighter began feeling better. He has since announced his retirement from boxing. We may never know whether his problem was neurological or something more akin to hypoglycemia. He would not allow doctors to draw blood for further testing because of his religious beliefs.

If Bentt was indeed weakened or dehydrated when he stepped into the ring, he was putting himself in a very precarious situation. According to Homansky and Jordan, dehydration is often at the root of most of boxing's serious injuries.

"If a fighter goes into the ring dehydrated, his reflexes are slower and he can really get hurt," said Jordan. "They are not up to par. It results in them taking more head blows than they might take under normal circumstances."

Dehydration is usually associated with a fighter who has struggled to make weight. The combination can be fatal, or at least career-ending, as it was for bantamweight champion Richie Sandoval in 1986. But dehydration can be avoided. It is up to the fighter to train earnestly and the commissions to enforce stricter rules and assume more of an active role in monitoring a fighter's weight loss.

Boxing suffers from many self-inflicted wounds. Many can be avoided—and so can the attacks against the sport.

"It can be a brutal, brutal sport," said Homansky. "There is nothing we can do to make it totally safe. But boxing is a fact of our civilization. It's part of us. It's the ultimate human challenge."

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Next month: Eye injuries ■

***Robert Cassidy is a frequent contributor to* THE RING.**

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What If...

(Continued from page 29)

Sanchez destroyed living legend Wilfredo Gomez late in 1981. Rated by many as the best fighter, pound for pound, in the game, Gomez had exhausted all opposition in the junior featherweight class. After 13 successful defenses, Gomez was looking for new worlds to conquer. Even though he was moving up in weight, he was an odds-on favorite to take Sanchez' title. It was, as expected, no contest. However, it was Sanchez who emerged as boxing's brightest star after stopping Gomez in the eighth round.

The clamor for a Sanchez-Pedroza unification fight reached a fever pitch, but the potential matchup was ignored by WBC boss Jose Sulaiman and WBA kingpin Rodrigo Sanchez. Neither man was in any hurry to sanction a bout between the featherweight stars, at least not at this stage of their careers. So, as 1982 began, both champions continued to fight frequently—but not against each other.

In one of the most foul-filled fights in recent years, Pedroza won a decision over Juan LaPorte in January. LaPorte, who had also lost a tough decision to Sanchez, was asked to compare the champions. "Sanchez is slick," he told *World Boxing* magazine. "He avoids more punches than Pedroza."

Sanchez coasted to an easy decision over Rocky Garcia in May, then took a fight against an unheralded substitute from Ghana named Azumah Nelson. Only a brilliant display of courage, stamina, and boxing skills saved Sanchez against the valiant Nelson, who succumbed in the 15th round.

It was to be Sanchez' last fight; three weeks later, the brilliant champion died in an automobile accident, smashing his sports car into an oncoming truck. Boxing had lost a star and Mexico had lost a hero.

After defeating LaPorte, Pedroza said his only remaining goal was a fight with Sanchez. He never got the chance to prove his superiority.

THE WAY IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN

LaPorte loses to Pedroza. Sanchez notches yet another win by blasting out superstar Gomez. Who's left for these two warriors? "Give me Sanchez," states Pedroza, calm and confident at a press conference in Panama City. In Mexico, Sanchez, eying a bout with either Pedroza or Alexis Arguello, tells reporters he'd rather fight Arguello. The grinning fighter rubs his fingers together: "More money!"

Enter promoter Bob Arum, who claims Sanchez and Sulaiman want no part of Pedroza. He offers both fighters a $500,000 guarantee. Ultimately, it's pride that lures Sanchez into signing. Sanchez vs. Pedroza. Mexico vs. Panama. It had to happen.

The prefight hype is surprising, especially considering this is a featherweight, and not a heavyweight, title fight. Boxing insiders are split on whom they favor. Pedroza's awkward style meshes neatly with his innate skills, making him an excellent defensive fighter. In hand and foot speed, he matches Sanchez. And while the Panamanian's power is nothing extraordinary, he flaunts a brutal body attack that eats away at his opponent's will and endurance. Stylewise, his supporters claim, Pedroza will be a nightmare for Sanchez.

Questions about Pedroza's chin arise from Sanchez' camp. Pedroza was stopped three times as a bantamweight. He hasn't seen the canvas, however, in six years. Like Pedroza, Sanchez is not viewed as a big hitter. But he can be counted on to offer a consistent punch rate, and Pedroza can be outworked.

For his part, Sanchez has razor-sharp reflexes and radar-like punching accuracy. And even his critics acknowledge the Mexican has a granite chin. Sanchez also possesses incredible stamina. This could be a factor; Pedroza likes to rally late in 15-round fights.

THE FIGHT

A capacity crowd of 12,000 fans fill the Tropicana in Atlantic City as the main event, to be televised by HBO, nears. On this night, at least, the action at the gaming tables can't match the action at ringside.

When Sanchez-Pedroza was announced, the Las Vegas oddsmakers listed the fight as pick-'em. Late Sanchez money makes the Mexican a 3-2 favorite at fight time. The 28-year-old Pedroza, 31-3 (18), scales 126 and the 23-year-old Sanchez, 39-1-1 (30), 125. At 5'9", Pedroza is two inches taller. The referee is Arthur Mercante and the judges Chuck Hassett (USA), Tony Castellano (USA), and Dimas Hernandez (Venezuela).

Round 1: Pedroza opens with movement, as is expected. Sanchez follows him and makes little attempt at cutting off the ring. A minute goes by with only a few tentative jabs thrown. Halfway through the round, Sanchez scores with a quick combination to the head, and Pedroza answers by raking Sanchez' body with thudding hooks. Sanchez connects with a double jab just before the bell.

Rounds 2-3: Who plugged in the copier? These rounds are duplicates of the first. Pedroza is content to stick and move, while Sanchez reluctantly assumes the role of aggressor. The crowd grows restless near the end of the third, and a smattering of boos can be heard. A small contingent of Panamanians starts to chant for Pedroza, but Sanchez supporters drown them out with screams of "May-hee-co!" In a battle of jabs, the fight seems about even.

Round 4: Both fighters are notorious slow starters, but Pedroza comes alive in the fourth. He moves in, lands a solid combination, and slickly avoids Sanchez' counterpunches. Sanchez walks to Pedroza, only to be hammered by a jab and a hook to the body. The WBC champion backs off, but Pedroza doesn't follow. The fighters trade jabs, then Sanchez fires a four-punch combination—with none of the blows landing. Pedroza is brilliantly slipping punches and blocking others. Sanchez looks somewhat confused. A straight right makes Sanchez blink. Sanchez tries to bull Pedroza, and for a moment the featherweights go toe to toe. Sanchez fires to the body for the first time. Pedroza misses with a whistling left to the head as the bell sounds.

Rounds 5-7: Both fighters have their moments as the fight progresses into its middle stage. In the sixth, Mercante warns both fighters about keeping their punches up. Moments later, he orders a break and sternly chastises Pedroza for rabbit-punching. Neither fighter is able to gain a distinct advantage. In the seventh, Pedroza suffers a cut over his right eye, the result of an unintentional butt. The cut seems to infuriate Pedroza, who cuts loose with a volley of blows, almost all of which miss their mark.

Round 8: Sanchez tries to initiate a war. Pedroza answers with lots of upper body movement and continues to attack the ribs. For the first time, there is sustained action, and the crowd rises. A Sanchez right cross stuns Pedroza, who responds with an overhand right. Sanchez eschews defense and lets loose with both hands, working the body and head. Pedroza stops the Mexican's momentum with a beautiful uppercut that makes Sanchez clinch. As the round comes to a close, Pedroza sticks a jab into Sanchez' face, then lands a shot well below the belt. Sanchez backs off, grimacing in pain. After eight rounds, the fight is even on points.

Round 9: Sanchez eats two jabs as he rushes at Pedroza. His intent is obvious when he aims a left uppercut at Pedroza's groin. Pedroza responds by clinching and hitting Sanchez behind the head. Sensing he's losing control, Mercante calls time out and warns both fighters that any more infractions will bring point deductions. Whether Sanchez and Pedroza understand him is anyone's guess. Regardless, both featherweights return to classic boxing. Pedroza is more effective, blocking Sanchez' leads and countering beautifully.

Round 10: Moving almost continually,

Pedroza refuses to give Sanchez a target. Time and again, Sanchez prepares to throw a punch, then double-cocks as Pedroza slips out of the way. Pedroza's hit-and-run tactics bring boos from the crowd, but the WBA champion scores enough to steal the round. Pedroza isn't very active, but what he throws he lands. Sanchez, always economical with his punches, simply can't get off.

Round 11: Comfortable with the slow pace, Pedroza does absolutely nothing for the first half of the round. Sanchez lands a few jabs, but is otherwise unsuccessful in forcing his rival to fight. With two minutes gone, Sanchez literally leaps at Pedroza and lands a lopping right high on the Panamanian's forehead. Pedroza stops moving and Sanchez seizes the moment. A 12-punch explosion has Pedroza reeling, and only his defensive artistry enables him to survive. Finally able to clinch, Pedroza lands a straight right on the break. Mercante immediately jumps in front of Sanchez, motions him to a neutral corner, and indicates a point deduction. All three judges score 10-8 for Sanchez.

Round 12: In what proves to be the fiercest round of the fight, Pedroza comes out intent on earning back the point he lost in the 11th. Sanchez is willing to trade, and defense is forgotten. Both fighters connect, and the cut over Pedroza's right eye reopens and begins to bleed profusely. Pedroza bangs Sanchez with body blow after body blow, and in mid-round the Mexican seems to wilt. Fortunately for Sanchez, Pedroza becomes uncharacteristically wild and repeatedly misses. Sanchez recovers quickly and scores to both the head and body. Despite Mercante's intervention, the fighters continue to throw punches 10 seconds after the bell.

Rounds 13-14: After 12 rounds, Sanchez is ahead by one point. After the fireworks in the 12th, the 13th is understandably less exciting. Nonetheless, both fighters deliver lots of punches. Most of the round is spent throwing jabs and counter rights. Pedroza continues to work the body, and Sanchez connects with a left to the head. A Pedroza uppercut forces Sanchez back half a step, then the Mexican pops in two jabs. In the 14th, an errant Pedroza elbow draws another warning, and an irate Sanchez screams at both the Panamanian and Mercante. No point is deducted.

Round 15: Both fighters start fast, but aren't reckless. Both seem to sense the fight is still to be won. They trade jabs before Pedroza scores with a head right and Sanchez a counter left. Pedroza, feet planted, weaves his upper body from side to side, freezing Sanchez. He capitalizes by firing a combination that sends sweat flying from the Mexican's head. Sanchez roars back with two rights. Pedroza dances away with Sanchez in pursuit. The final minute sees both feather-weights trying—and failing—to find the one big punch that will make the difference. A final flurry by Pedroza marks the end of the bout.

THE DECISION

Chuck Hassett scores 145-143 for Sanchez, Tony Castellano 144-144, and Dimas Hernandez 146-144 for the winner by majority decision and undisputed champion—Salvador Sanchez!

While there is a cry from Pedroza's corner, ringsiders are relieved that Mercante's point deduction didn't cost the Panamanian the fight. Pedroza's postfight deportment earns him as many fans as did the fight. "I thought I won," he says. "It was close. We should do it again." Sanchez praises Pedroza but claims the low blows sapped him of some of his strength. Pedroza, he says, should have been penalized earlier and more often.

Insiders are split, with a slight majority believing Sanchez deserved the verdict. The winner was slightly more active, throwing 999 punches to Pedroza's 952. Both fighters landed far below their usual percentage, with Sanchez connecting at 35 percent and Pedroza 36 percent.

THE AFTERMATH

There would be no rematch. Sanchez would be killed in a car accident. Pedroza would regain the WBA crown by outpointing Rocky Lockridge in a bout for the vacant title. Juan LaPorte would go on to stop Mario Miranda to fill the vacant WBC slot. The title would remain split for many, many years, with none of the champions flashing the class and skills of either Sanchez or Pedroza. ■

Pazienza

(Continued from page 31)

going to knock him out. And then I'll make love to his girlfriend."

Pazienza, who lives with *Penthouse* centerfold Leigh Anderson in his home in Warwick, Rhode Island, was not impressed by Duran's talk.

"All his bellyaching," Pazienza said of Duran, "it reminds me of Greg Haugen. Two crybabies. Two nasty little crybabies.

"Before we fought, Duran was saying, 'Pazienza's a blown-up lightweight.' What he didn't understand was that I was walking around at 170 pounds when I was fighting lightweight, that I had to work like hell to get down to the 135-pound limit. I think he was surprised with my strength and power. He didn't pressure me

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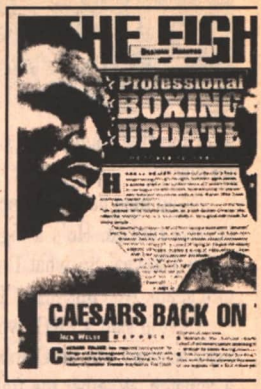

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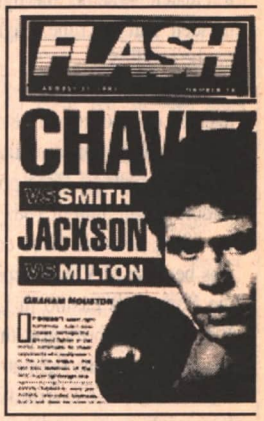

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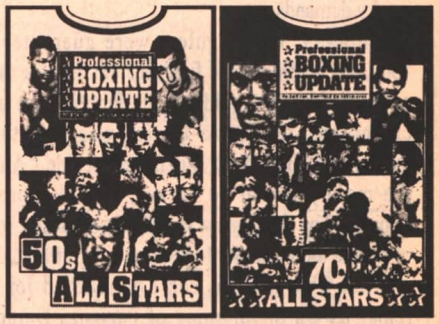

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Pazienza

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after the first round. The sucker laid back after I hit him.

"And then he has the nerve to go whining that he was robbed. He's a bigger whiner than Julio Cesar Chavez. So what I'm going to do is fight him again. And this time I'll knock him out."

Cayton said TVKO, which aired the pay-per-view telecast, has an October 8 date available for a rematch. Whether the fight happens remains to be seen. But this time, Cayton said, Duran would not be coddled.

"For the fight in June," said Cayton, "Duran insisted on and got an 18-foot ring, eight-ounce gloves, and a stipulation that Vinny would weigh in at 165 pounds, three pounds under the super middleweight limit of 168.

"See, how all these concessions happened was because of Vinny's special relationship with the Foxwoods casino in Ledyard, Connecticut. Vinny is a celebrity host there, and we originally sought to stage the fight at Foxwoods. But Duran insisted on those conditions if we wanted Foxwoods as a site. Well, as it turned out, the MGM Grand offered a million-dollar guarantee to cover both fighters, which topped Foxwoods' $600,000 offer by a lot.

"Once the MGM Grand got the fight, I sat with Vinny and [trainer] Kevin Rooney and told them, 'The terms and conditions we were under for Foxwoods are kaput. We have no obligation to keep to them for the MGM.' By that time, though, Vinny had become acclimated to Duran's stipulations and told me, 'It's okay, Bill. He wants the 18-foot ring, give it to him. He wants the eight-ounce gloves, give it to him. He wants me to come in at 165, give it to him.'

"But if there's a rematch, it'll be in accordance with the rules. Which means that Vinny will come in at 168 pounds, that they'll fight in a 20-foot ring and with 10-ounce gloves. This time it'll be by the rules—not by Roberto's quirky demands.

"Finally, both fighters were guaranteed $500,000 apiece for the fight in June. But for the rematch, Vinny should get the larger share as champion. [Pazienza-Duran was for the meaningless IBC super middleweight title.] And the money would be bigger, I think, for a rematch. The first time was difficult because a lot of people didn't think of Duran as a legit fighter."

And what if terms can't be reached for a rematch? On the morning of Pazienza-Duran, Cayton met with British manager/promoter Barry Hearn, who represents middleweight Stevie Collins and unbeaten super middleweight Chris Eubank. Cayton said they discussed a match between Collins and Pazienza for October at either Boston Garden or Foxwoods.

"And following that," said Cayton, "Vinny would fight Eubank in London. The fight could take place in December, in Wembley Arena, and I'd look for Vinny to get a minimum of one million British pounds—that's 1.5-million in U.S. dollars."

The only hitch to Hearn getting both his charges in high-priced action is the close relationship Paz shares with Collins.

"He's a good friend," Pazienza says of the Ireland-based 160-pounder. "I love the kid. I'm not that anxious to fight him. But if it turned out we had to, it'd be strictly business. Two professionals making a day's wages. My preference is to fight one of the champions, Eubank or Nigel Benn, in England. I've done everything in this game. I can't get up anymore for small fights.

"The Duran fight, the icing on the cake was coming off the canvas [in round five] and beating him," Pazienza continued. "I hate to admit it, but I've always wanted to do that—get off the canvas and charge back into the fight. And let's face it: I fought like a champion the rest of the way. It's one of the highlights of my career. If I continue fighting, it's gotta give me that kind of charge. It's got to be with something at stake. Something big."

Cayton has the big ideas to match "The Pazmanian Devil's" grand ambitions. Should Paz get by Duran or Collins, and then Eubank, Cayton has IBF super middleweight champion James Toney in mind for a match in the spring of 1995. Toney is expected to defend against Roy Jones on October 1, but Cayton doesn't expect Jones will derail his plans.

"I think Toney will beat Jones," he said. "I think he's too tough for Jones. But we're prepared to fight the winner of that match. And I would go to TVKO/HBO and put in an official challenge.

"What I'd really like, what I think Vinny is capable of, is for him to unify the super middleweight division. Eubank, Toney, and then Benn. We'd fight Benn as soon as his contract with Don King runs out, which would be about mid-1995."

For now, Cayton is seeking to negotiate the last hurrahs for Pazienza. It's a job made easier by Pazienza's outgoing nature and instinct for self-promotion. Through the ups and downs of a career dating back to May 1983, Paz has kept himself in the public eye, creating the image of a tough little guy who doesn't mind bleeding for his money.

But through the years, Pazienza has also drawn the sniper fire of critics. The doubters saw a kid who, though theatrical by instinct and gutsy in combat, appeared to lack the genius that the great ones possess. A glorified clubfighter, they called him, meaning no disrespect by that. Or not much, anyway. It was their way of marking him as a fella who gave an honest effort but could never expect blue-collar industriousness to win him a place in the boxing galaxy.

After the Duran fight, *New York Post* columnist Wallace Matthews called Pazienza "a cheap Hector Camacho imitation—if such a thing can be imagined—with all the charm and *savoir-faire* of Andrew Dice Clay."

If Pazienza does not always get respect, if the reviews are not always four-star and thumbs-up, still he endures.

"I don't care what they say about me," he says. "At least they know my name. I must be doing something right." ■

Phil Berger is a freelance writer based in New York City.

Lavorante

(Continued from page 45)

he was knocked out of the ring by the most famous heavyweight to come out of Argentina, Luis Firpo, in their legendary 1921 title fight. "I didn't like what I saw," George would say later. "For many weeks I struggled along, teaching [Lavorante] what I thought a fighter of his size and weight should know. It was no fun."

Under the circumstances, George figured it best to launch his protege far away from the cynical eyes of the major boxing press. He and Lavorante went to Texas, and on September 23, 1959, the Argentine knocked out Dean Bogany in two rounds. In October, he had three fights in the Lone Star State, winning them all. Then, in November, having been a professional for all of two months, Lavorante took a giant and seemingly preposterous step up, getting in the ring with the sixth-ranked heavyweight in the world.

Roy Harris had lost just one of 29 bouts, and that had been a bid for Patterson's title a year earlier. Harris had knocked the champion down for a short count before getting stopped in the 12th round.

Lavorante lost a 10-round decision to Harris in San Antonio. He had clearly been overmatched, but George said it was the fighter's own doing. "Lavorante threatened to go home to Argentina unless I stopped putting him in against stiffs," said the manager.

Today, Harris, a lawyer and the clerk of

Montgomery County, Texas, still has vivid memories of the Lavorante fight. "He had such long reach, and fairly good speed for such a big man," he says. "He did hit me with one good shot in our fight, which surprised me."

One telling incident particularly stands out in Harris' memory: "I hit him once, I can't remember what round, and it kind of knocked him out. But he grabbed me and picked me up off the floor about six inches. He was in a trance and was sort of squeezing me. It was really interesting. I thought he was gonna squeeze me to death before he put me down."

A decision loss in only his fifth fight to a veteran contender was no disgrace to Lavorante. "He lost, but the public was satisfied he could fight," said George.

After two more wins in early-1960, George finally unveiled his neophyte in Los Angeles, and in April, Lavorante knocked out Andy Isaacs in one round.

Lavorante and George lived at the Alexandria Hotel in L.A. The tall fighter and the diminutive manager, wrote local boxing reporter John Hall, "made a dramatic Mutt and Jeff team."

"Lavorante speaks very little English and I speak little Spanish, but we each know enough to make ourselves understood," said George.

Within a year, Lavorante had five more wins. That his victims were mostly light-hitting journeymen didn't matter so much as the fact that suddenly there was a big, handsome heavyweight running up a winning streak.

It was an exciting time to be in America. Like everyone else, Lavorante was enthralled by the fledgling U.S. space program whose goal, young and dynamic President John F. Kennedy stated, was to land a man on the moon. That bold and breathtaking ideal became a metaphor for Lavorante's boxing career. "This is the year of the astronaut," crowed George. "Everyone is shooting for the moon, and we're doing the same."

In his 13th bout, Lavorante rocketed into prominence. In May 1961, Alex, as he was known to his growing circle of friends and fans, faced the world's third-ranked heavyweight at the Olympic Auditorium. Zora Folley was a veteran of 59 fights, an uninspiring but skillful boxer who had been avoided by Patterson as if he had a fatally contagious disease. Lavorante knocked out Folley in the seventh round.

"The New Heavyweight Hope," said the next issue of THE RING alongside the cover photo of the handsome Latin boxer. Editor Nat Fleischer called Lavorante "the talk of the sports world," and said, "close followers of the fight game say he cannot miss striking gold if Pinkie continues to bring him along with care and pace." Another boxing publication raved that Lavorante had "taken the spotlight from Sonny Liston, Eddie Machen, Henry Cooper, and Ingemar Johansson," while a third heralded the "whirlwind ascent which left even the most blase boxing experts gasping."

Southern California promoter George Parnassus immediately offered Patterson half-a-million dollars to risk the title against Lavorante in Los Angeles. There was even talk of a movie career for the bachelor whose female fans kept the switchboard at the Alexandria busy taking their calls.

"He was good-looking and tall, and everybody loved him," says Monroe Ratliff, a California heavyweight who found out how much the latter was true when it was announced he would be Lavorante's next opponent.

"He's fighting you," Ratliff's fiancee told him, "but I'm pulling for him."

Lavorante decisioned Ratliff and then fought six more times that year, while George hurled challenges at Patterson and even demanded that his title be stripped when the champion signed to fight non-contender Tom McNeeley instead.

The public relations drumbeats were so loud that it went virtually unnoticed when, in December, Lavorante lost for the second time, a decision to brawler George Logan in Logan's hometown of Boise, Idaho. "Hometown decision," snorted Pinkie George, and three weeks later all was forgotten when Lavorante knocked out Von Clay in Los Angeles. Sportswriters named Lavorante Fighter of the Year in Southern California for 1961.

Lavorante fever spread beyond the sports pages. In a feature called "People On The Way Up," *The Saturday Evening Post* ran a large photo of Lavorante looking movie-star handsome in a suit and tie, wearing boxing gloves and skipping rope. The article noted he was training for a March 1962 bout with Archie Moore and quoted George: "We've wanted Moore for a long time, and he's finally walked into our trap."

But in his mind-boggling 26-year, 226-bout career, the 45-year-old "Mongoose" was boxing's consummate trapsetter. And in their fight at the L.A. Sports Arena, Moore showed up the 21-fight Lavorante for the novice he really was. "Moore gave Lavorante a boxing lesson for nine rounds," reported the United Press International. In the 10th, he knocked Lavorante through the ropes and the fight was stopped to spare the Argentine further punishment. "He just didn't know how to defend himself," Archie would say later.

Lavorante hadn't been floored, but in his corner he collapsed and was carried out of the ring on a stretcher. He recovered sufficiently in

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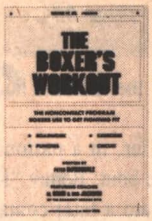

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Lavorante

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his dressing room to have the incident laid to exhaustion.

Less than a week earlier, in a nationally televised welterweight title bout, Benny "Kid" Paret had been knocked into a fatal coma by Emile Griffith. Paret was one of eight boxers to die in 1961. By June of the next year, six more fighters were dead, and *McCall's* went to former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt with the question, "Shall boxing be outlawed?" The influential widow of FDR said she "always felt that prize fighting was a rather good sport," and urged its continuance with "proper regulation."

Notwithstanding the Moore loss, in July, Lavorante was the favorite when he faced an undefeated Kentuckian named Cassius Clay at the L.A. Sports Arena. Later, columnist Jim Murray would remember Lavorante at a prefight press gala as a "quiet, polite giant in black tie and white coat, a modest boy who hung on the fringes of the crowd and did what he was told, who posed with politicians and passed up potables because he was a prize fighter and needed all his strength."

The fringes of a crowd was the last place to find the brash Clay, who predicted he would knock out Lavorante in five rounds. It had taken Moore 10, and "what an old man can do, a young one can do better."

In the second round, Clay hurt Lavorante, but he explained later that he didn't go "all-out" then because "I wanted to make my prediction come true. People get mad if I predict wrong." Lavorante went down and out in the forecasted round.

George's prediction that Lavorante was the next world heavyweight champion had been drastically revised by the Riggins fight two months later. "Alex is still a great prospect, and we're going to prove it," said the manager on the eve of the bout.

Riggins, 25-10, seemed a safe bet to put Lavorante back on the win side. In the preceding year, he'd won only one of six fights, and had been knocked out twice.

"Riggins couldn't break an egg," recalls 55-year-old Monroe Ratliff, who often sparred with Riggins in the gym. "You loved to work with him because you'd never get hurt."

Ratliff had already been signed as Lavorante's next opponent. He was at ringside for the Riggins fight, and almost 32 years later he still can't believe what he saw.

"Lavorante was killing the guy for five rounds," he says, "and then all of a sudden Riggins threw a right hand."

The punch staggered Lavorante, who had won every round on the judges' cards. When Lavorante came out for the sixth, his legs were wobbly, and every time Riggins pawed at him he staggered and swayed. Finally, an uppercut from Riggins collapsed him in a corner. For the second time in six months, Lavorante was taken out on a stretcher. Only this time he was not exhausted.

When they stripped off his boxing gear at California Lutheran Hospital that night in preparation for the first brain operation, a nurse saw the foul-proof cup around Lavorante's groin and remarked, "They protected the wrong end."

The left side of Lavorante's brain was a bleeding mess. The surgeons cauterized spurting blood vessels and removed several blood clots. "The fighter's situation is very grim," said Dr. J. DeWitt Fox, the chief surgeon.

The next day, an emergency tracheotomy was done to help the unconscious fighter breathe, and the day after that Dr. Fox had to take out a whole section of Lavorante's skull to accommodate severe swelling of the brain. The skull piece was frozen, then reattached after the swelling subsided.

"If he doesn't wake up in the next couple days, his future is guarded," said Fox after the second operation. The doctor noted he had detected no scars or previous damage in his exploration of the fighter's brain.

Lavorante's mother arrived in Los Angeles from Rosario five days after the fight. When she whispered in Spanish to her comatose son, reported the *Los Angeles Times*, "Lavorante suddenly began clenching his fists, flicking his eyelids, thrashing his arms, and twisting his mouth as if trying to speak."

Dr. Fox called it a hopeful sign, but as days, weeks, and months passed, Lavorante, whom a nurse said "looked like a Greek god lying there, so handsome and still," remained in a coma. He didn't even flinch when, out of desperation, they brought in a ring bell and clanged it right next to his ear. Mrs. Lavorante's surreptitious applications of holy water from Lourdes, France, where the sick and lame go in search of miracles, only resulted in a staph infection for her son.

"I hated it real bad when I heard he got hurt," says Harris. "He was a good kid and I liked him. I've always been upset about the way our country treated him, and I thought it was a terrible disgrace."

Harris does not mean what happened to Lavorante in boxing, although the sport deserved the lumps it took for the reduction of a vibrant, attractive 25-year-old man who believed and did what he was told to a mindless lump in a hospital bed. What Harris refers to is the refusal of the U.S. government, in the spring of 1963, to grant permission to Lavorante's parents to take him home to Argentina because it was owed $9,542.97 in income taxes from his boxing purses.

The Lavorantes' desire to take their son home to Argentina was also publicly criticized by Los Angeles promoters Parnassus and Eileen Eaton, who thought that with the medical care being given Lavorante here, he would eventually recover from his injuries.

The case went to court, and finally, on May 4, 1963, eight months after he was knocked unconscious, and only after Lavorante's parents and Argentine Vice Consul Adolfo Gonzalez went to the Federal Building in Los Angeles with the second tax installment, a lift truck on the runway at L.A. International Airport hoisted the bed carrying Lavorante into the rear section of an Argentina-bound jet. Lavorante's eyes were open, but he couldn't see the tears of the family and friends gathered around him. According to Dr. Fox, he remained "in a mental state of being unable to see, think, or talk."

"We are very hopeful that his mental outlook will improve when we get him home," said the surgeon, who accompanied the Lavorantes to Rosario.

Reports from Argentina were sporadic. It was said Lavorante was taught to eat food that was placed in his hand, and managed to say a word or two and even to walk unassisted from a wheelchair to his bed. One haunting photo showed the gaunt (down to 165 pounds), vacant-eyed Lavorante sitting up in bed to sip a glass of wine with his parents' help.

***

In early-1964, boxing toasted a colorful new heavyweight champion. Cassius Clay won the title in February and would change his name to Muhammad Ali and become widely viewed, just as he had predicted, as the greatest of all-time.

Alejandro Lavorante hung on to life, or at least a shadowy version of it, much longer than Victor Stephens III, 29, who died September 24, 1962, playing sandlot football; and Roger Pierson, 18, who had a fatal heart attack September 27, 1962, running in a cross-country track meet. When they called Pinkie George in Iowa on April 1, 1964, to tell him his fighter had finally died, the little manager said, "It's a tragedy they took him over there [to Argentina] because I don't think he got the care he was getting in the United States."

Maybe. But others in and out of boxing just as easily wondered if the tragedy of Lavorante was not that he left the United States, but that he ever came here in the first place. ■

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By Jack Fiske

Fiske On Fights

Enough, already. *No mas,* please. Give us a break.

In the next few months, 46-year-old George Foreman will challenge Michael Moorer for the IBF and WBA heavyweight titles. That's ubiquitous George Foreman, a former champion who won't give up pursuit of another Golden Grail, like 43-year-old Larry Holmes and 43-year-old Roberto Duran, other icons who add millions to their ring earnings while refusing to leave center stage.

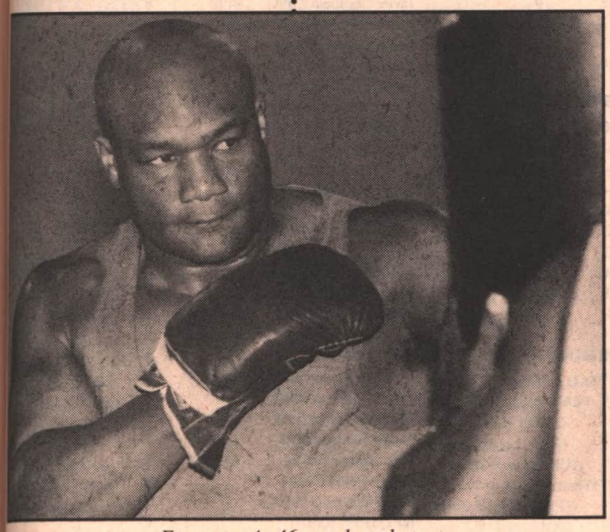
When does it all stop? When do these and other one-time top echelon fighters get the door slammed in their now-bloated faces and exit kicking? When will these fighters, with their eroded talents, be booed out of the ring so that deserving youngsters can be given their long-awaited opportunity to supplant the has-beens and, in the process, hopefully resurrect a sport whose life blood is quickly seeping away?

When Foreman made his second entrance on stage, I was a strong supporter of his comeback. Later, I had the idea that he could beat Evander Holyfield for the title and become the greatest story in boxing history. I was wrong, as were others, and when George lost to Tommy Morrison in his most recent fight more than a year ago, I realized he, with the unabashed help of cable and pay-per-view television, was conning the public.

What Foreman, Holmes, and Duran are doing is not an aberration. Other champions and can't-let-go fighters have ducked through the ropes long past their primes, with results rarely promising. Ray Robinson had his last fight at 44. Archie Moore was 52. Harold Johnson was 43. Eddie Cotton and Bob Foster were 40. Dick Tiger was 41, Joe Walcott 39, Max Schmeling 43, and Joe Louis 37. Ezzard Charles was 38. Joe Brown was 44. Jack Johnson was 50!

With the possible exceptions of Schmeling and Foster, all of the above were on the shorts when they returned or continued in the ring. Foreman, Holmes, and Duran can't make that claim.

It now appears Holyfield is going to join their ranks. Having earned a record $100-million in purses, the 32-year-old former two-time heavyweight champion has twice retired and twice announced a comeback. On the same day 34-year-old Chicago Cubs all-star second baseman Ryne Sandberg walked away from a deal worth nearly $16-million because he was "not satisfied" with his performance, Holyfield said his congenital heart condition, discovered after his title fight loss to Moorer in April, had improved enough that he was considering a return to the ring wars. What an act of gluttony!



Foreman: At 46, one last shot

Do Holyfield, Foreman, Holmes, and Duran feel satisfied that their recent performances are up to earlier standards, when fans held them in the highest regard? They'll tell you yes, but we know and see otherwise.

It's too late now, of course, but why couldn't they follow the likes of Gene Tunney, Jimmy McLarnin, and Rocky Marciano, all heralded champions who walked away graciously—and at an early age—and never looked back?

Tunney was 31 and a millionaire when he quit to marry an heiress. McLarnin was a mere 29 when he retired to clip security coupons initiated by manager Pop Foster when the fighter was only a teenager. Marciano was dealing with a chronic back problem and a double-dipping manager when he hung 'em up at 32.

How do we aid and abet and prod these former champions to get a life and retire *permanently*? Write them threatening letters? Complain to our Congressmen? Sue them for malpractice? None of that will work. There's only one course of action the cable channels, pay-per-view networks, and sanctioning bodies would understand and take seriously: a mass boycott by the fans at live events and a self-imposed sit-down strike at home that will dramatically affect the TV ratings and PPV buy rates.

The assistance of the press in any revolt is vital. Then again, haven't you noticed the media is already contributing by imposing a virtual blackout on boxing? ■

Worldwide Ratings

WBC
as of June

WBA
as of May

IBF
as of July

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	C	C
Oliver McCall (USA)	1	1	1
Tony Tucker (USA)	2	2	2
Lionel Butler (USA)	3	12	12
Joe Hipp (USA)	4	6	5
Larry Donald (USA)	5	–	9
Bruce Seldon (USA)	6	3	3
Jorge Luis Gonzalez (CUBA)	7	9	–
Alexandre Zolkin (RUS)	8	–	–
Larry Holmes (USA)	9	–	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	10	7	6
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	12	4	–
Frans Botha (SA)	18	5	10
Buster Mathis (USA)	15	8	7
Frank Bruno (GB)	11	10	–
Riddick Bowe (USA)	–	–	4
George Foreman (USA)	–	–	8

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	1	5	8
Carl Thompson (GB)	2	11	10
Robert Daniels (USA)	3	6	12
Kenny Keene (USA)	4	8	–
Adolpho Washington (USA)	5	–	4
Chemak Saleta (POL)	6	–	9
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	7	–	–
Jade Scott (USA)	8	–	7
Akim Tafer (FRA)	9	10	11
Arthur Williams (USA)	10	1	–
Bobby Czyz (USA)	12	2	–
Thomas Hearns (USA)	–	3	6
Nate Miller (USA)	–	4	1
James Warring (USA)	16	7	–
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	18	9	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	17	–	2
Sergei Kobozev (RUS)	11	–	3
Richard Mason (USA)	29	–	5

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mike McCallum (JAM)	IC	4	4
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Frank Tate (USA)	1	1	12
Randall Yonker (USA)	2	11	–
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	3	8	2
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	4	3	7
Darius Michalczewski (POL)	5	5	11
Charles Williams (USA)	6	–	1
Ernest Mateen (USA)	7	–	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	8	7	8
Maurice Core (GB)	9	–	–
Dan Schommer (USA)	10	–	–
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	–	2	–
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	12	6	–
Brent Kosolofski (CAN)	–	9	–
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	10	–
Duran Williams (USA)	–	–	3
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	13	12	5
John Scully (USA)	29	–	6
Crawford Ashley (GB)	19	–	9
Greg Everett (USA)	–	–	10

McCallum is the interim WBC champion

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Steve Little (USA)	–	C	–
James Toney (USA)	–	–	C
Frank Liles (USA)	1	1	8
Henry Wharton (GB)	2	10	4
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	3	–	9
Tim Littles (USA)	4	7	3
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	5	–	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	6	3	5
Tony Byrd (USA)	7	2	1
Kenny Bowman (USA)	8	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	9	–	–
Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR)	10	–	–
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	22	4	11
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	–	5	–
James Cook (GB)	–	6	–
Byun Gin Kang (KOR)	–	8	–
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	11	9	12
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	–	–	2
Tony Thornton (USA)	15	–	6
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	–	–	7
Ray Close (GB)	20	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerald McClellan (USA)	C	–	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	1	12	11
Julian Jackson (VI)	2	6	4
Quincy Taylor (USA)	3	10	9
Lamar Parks (USA)	4	–	7
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	5	4	1
Neville Brown (GB)	6	–	8
Joe Lipsey (USA)	7	11	5
Richie Woodhall (GB)	8	–	–
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	9	–	–
Silvio Branco (ITA)	10	–	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	–	1	3
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	2	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	3	–
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	16	5	2
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	17	7	–
Roberto Duran (PAN)	–	8	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	–	9	–
Thomas Tate (USA)	11	–	6
Derrick Rolon (USA)	14	–	10

Note: The WBA title is vacant

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	–	–	C
Carl Daniels (USA)	1	3	3
Simon Brown (USA)	2	8	–
Julio C. Green (USA)	3	4	2
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	4	10	11
Robert McCracken (GB)	5	–	8
Stephen Martinez (USA)	6	–	–
Darrin Morris (USA)	7	11	7
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	8	2	9
Patrick Mbehbenle (CAMER)	9	–	–
Ludovic Proto (FRA)	10	–	–
Ronald Wright (USA)	–	1	6
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	5	1
Tony Marshall (USA)	15	6	10
Bernard Razzano (FRA)	26	7	–
Curtis Summit (USA)	20	9	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	11	–	4
Gilberto Barreto (COL)	–	–	5

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	14	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
James McGirt (USA)	1	9	5
Larry Barnes (USA)	2	–	2
Gary Jacobs (GB)	3	6	6
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	4	8	8
Andrew Murray (GUY)	5	4	4
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	6	–	–
Santos Cardona (PR)	7	–	–
Luis Santana (USA)	8	–	–
Kenny Gould (USA)	9	–	–
David Gonzalez (USA)	10	–	7
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	1	–
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	2	1
Gert Bo Jacobsen (DEN)	–	3	–
Jung Oh Park (KOR)	12	5	–
Freddy Ladd (USA)	–	7	10
Oba Carr (USA)	–	10	3
Harold Brazier (USA)	13	–	9

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	–	C	–
Jake Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	C
Frankie Randall (USA)	1	2	10
David Kamau (USA)	2	7	–

anya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	3	–	1
y Lopez (USA)	4	–	–
e Gamache (USA)	5	–	–
ssie Rojas (CHILE)	6	–	–
go Pineda (COL)	7	4	6
ctor Lopez (MEX)	8	–	–
nnie Smith (USA)	9	–	–
Costello (USA)	10	–	–
ory Kayumba (FRA)	20	1	–
berto Cortes (ARG)	–	3	–
n Bergman (SA)	–	5	–
Yong Park (KOR)	28	6	–
rge Scott (USA)	19	8	11
hid Rahilou (FRA)	18	9	12
ristian Merle (FRA)	26	10	–
bio Sanchez (DR)	–	–	2
bney Moore (USA)	–	–	3
arles Murray (USA)	15	–	4
bio Padilla (COL)	–	–	5
ovanni Parisi (ITA)	–	–	7
ssie Pendleton (USA)	–	–	8
rry Tyson (USA)	12	–	9

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
guel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
narov Olzubek (JAP)	–	C	–
bel Ruelas (USA)	–	–	C
xander Johnson (USA)	1	1	2
guel Julio (COL)	2	6	1
n Baptist Mendy (FRA)	3	12	–
non Marchena (MEX)	4	–	7
frido Rocha (COL)	5	–	–
ardo Silva (ARG)	6	–	–
in Montantesz (USA)	7	–	–
sslan Cervera (COL)	8	–	–
chreed Lawal (DEN)	9	–	–
ry Jakubowski (USA)	10	–	12
e Gamache (USA)	–	2	–
tian Tejeda (ARG)	–	3	–
ramba Mitchell (USA)	14	4	–
y Lopez (USA)	–	5	6
el Griffith (USA)	17	7	–
ardo Molina (COL)	23	8	3
anus Tarored (INDO)	30	9	–
suaki Takeda (JAP)	–	10	–
ando Marimon (COL)	–	–	4
ly Schwer (GB)	–	–	5
n Lark (USA)	–	–	8
ve Johnston (USA)	–	–	9
gaan Thobela (SA)	13	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
ne James Leija (USA)	C	–	–
aro Hernandez (USA)	–	C	–
ie John Molina (PR)	–	–	C
briel Ruelas (USA)	1	4	4
nny Garcia (COL)	2	–	–
vin Grove (USA)	3	10	2
gilo Tuur (HOLL)	4	–	–
anly Alexandrov (RUS)	5	–	–
Hopson (USA)	6	8	5
ctor Hugo Paz (ARG)	7	3	–
gene Speed (USA)	8	–	12
ny Pep (CAN)	9	–	–
rick Johnson (TRIN)	10	–	–
rcos Guevara (VEN)	20	1	–
nny Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
rald Warren (USA)	14	5	–
bin Yoma (FRA)	12	6	6
ng Soo Choi (KOR)	26	7	–
lton Rodriguez (DR)	11	9	1
ses Pedroza (COL)	–	–	3
aro Gatti (USA)	19	–	7
el Liberatore (USA)	13	–	8
mah Nelson (GHA)	–	–	9
rnando Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
elvin Kelley (USA)	C	–	–
ky Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
in Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
sar Soto (MEX)	1	–	–
jandro Gonzalez (MEX)	2	–	7
guel Arrozal (PHIL)	3	3	4
ver Beleno (COL)	4	6	2
ctor Lizarraga (USA)	5	–	10
ancisco Segura (USA)	6	10	1
ny Green (USA)	7	–	3
ung Kyun Park (KOR)	8	2	–

Jose Vida Ramos (DR)	9	–	–
Louie Espinoza (USA)	10	–	–
Luis Mendoza (COL)	–	1	–
Tsuyoshi Harada (JAP)	14	4	–
Samart Payakaroon (THAI)	–	5	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	17	7	8
Fernando Rodriguez (USA)	29	8	–
Sean Murphy (GB)	–	9	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	–	5
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	11	6
Benny Amparo (USA)	19	–	9

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Tracy Patterson (USA)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	C	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	–	C
Julio Gervacio (DR)	1	–	4
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	2	–	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	3	9	5
Jose Badillo (PR)	4	–	–
Frank Toledo (USA)	5	–	–
Nestor Farias (ARG)	6	8	–
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	7	–	6
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	8	4	–
Sergio Liendo (ARG)	9	–	–
Junior Jones (USA)	10	–	10
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	–	1	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	2	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	17	3	–
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	21	5	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	19	6	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	–	7	–
Hee Yun Kwon (KOR)	–	10	–
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	1
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	2
Welcome Ncita (SA)	12	12	3
Maui Diaz (USA)	24	–	7
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	27	–	8
Eddie Cook (USA)	–	–	9

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	C	–	–
John Michael Johnson (USA)	–	C	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	–	C
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	–	4
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	2	12	–
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	3	–	–
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	4	–	–
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	5	–	–
John Armour (GB)	6	–	7
Roberto Moran (ARG)	7	–	–
Harold Mestre (COL)	8	7	2
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	9	–	–
Naseem Hamed (GB)	10	–	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	1	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	11	2	–
Eliecer Julio (COL)	12	3	9
Eddie Cook (USA)	–	4	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	29	5	8
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	6	–
Isaias Zamudio (MEX)	–	8	10
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	14	9	11
In Joo Cho (KOR)	–	10	–
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	1
Lauren Ramirez (SPA)	26	–	3
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	19	–	5
Sergio Reyes (USA)	–	–	6

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	–	C	–
Julio Borboa (MEX)	–	–	C
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	1	–	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	2	9	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	3	2	–
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	4	–	11
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	5	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	6	–	–
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	7	4	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	8	–	3
In Joo Cho (KOR)	9	–	–
Armando Salazar (MEX)	10	–	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	1	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	3	–
David Griman (VEN)	–	5	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	23	6	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	19	7	–
In Sik Koh (KOR)	17	8	–
Ernesto Briceno (VEN)	–	10	–
Harold Gray (COL)	–	–	1

Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	–	–	2
Johnny Tapia (USA)	11	–	4
Carlos Mercado (COL)	–	–	5
Robert Quiroga (USA)	–	–	6
Rolando Bohol (PHIL)	–	–	7
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	–	8
Jaji Sibali (SA)	–	–	9
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	15	–	10

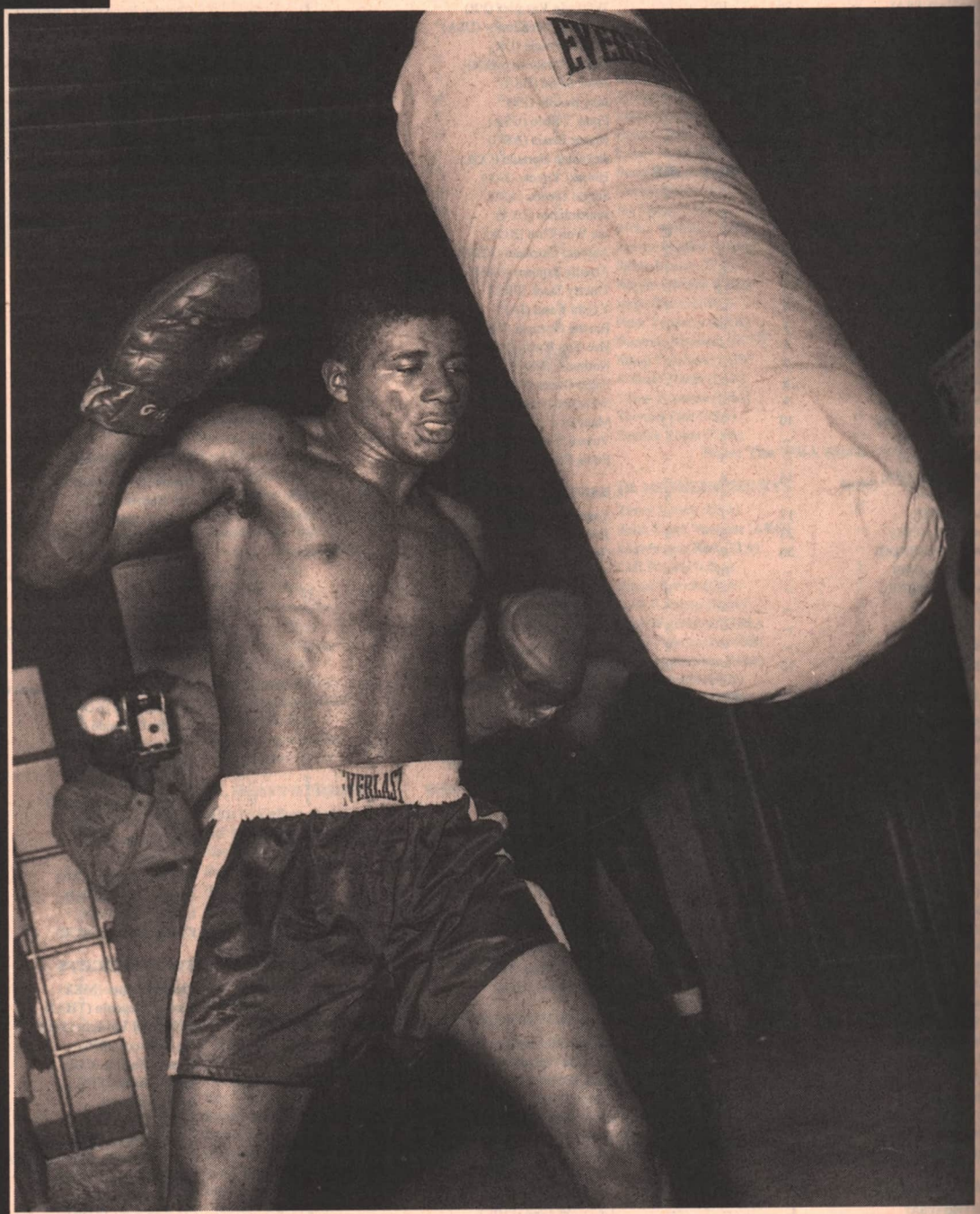
FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
San Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Phichit Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	–	C
Hugo Soto (ARG)	1	11	–
Chatchai Eric-Gym (THAI)	2	12	–
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	3	–	9
Mark Johnson (USA)	4	–	4
Danny Romero (USA)	5	–	5
Danny Nunez (DR)	6	–	–
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	7	–	–
Raul Rios (MEX)	8	–	–
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	9	–	10
Enrique Orozco (MEX)	10	–	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	–	1	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	27	2	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	–	3	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	26	4	–
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	–	5	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	6	–
Chokchai Chorniwat (THAI)	18	7	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	23	8	–
Robbie Regan (GB)	16	9	7
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	10	1
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	22	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	25	–	3
Ratanachai Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	6
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	–	–	8

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	C
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	C	–
Javier Varguez (MEX)	1	–	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	2	8	5
Jesus Chong (MEX)	3	6	–
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	4	–	–
Manuel de Jesus Herrera (DR)	5	–	–
Fahlan Sakkirin (THAI)	6	4	2
Toto Pow Phongsawang (THAI)	7	–	–
Pablo Tiznado (MEX)	8	–	–
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	9	–	–
Phanieng Sasiprabha-Poontarat (THAI)	10	–	–
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	18	1	–
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	26	2	–
Michael Carbajal (USA)	–	3	1
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	21	5	11
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	27	7	7
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	–	9	–
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	30	10	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	3
Eric Griffin (USA)	12	–	4
Robinson Cuesta (PAN)	–	–	6
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	–	–	8
Leon Salazar (PAN)	–	–	9
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	–	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	4	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	2	8	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	3	–	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	4	–	11
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	5	1	–
Jack Russell (AUSTRL)	6	–	8
Yodsingh Au Suwannasilp (THAI)	7	–	–
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	8	2	1
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	9	–	5
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	10	6	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	16	3	–
Saman Sor Jaturong (THAI)	–	5	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	26	7	2
Tomonori Tamura (JAP)	–	9	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	11	10	–
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	–	–	3
Felix Naranjo (COL)	–	–	4
Juan Herrera (COL)	15	–	6
Oscar Flores (COL)	–	–	7
Rafael Torres (DR)	–	–	9
Dominggus (INDO)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

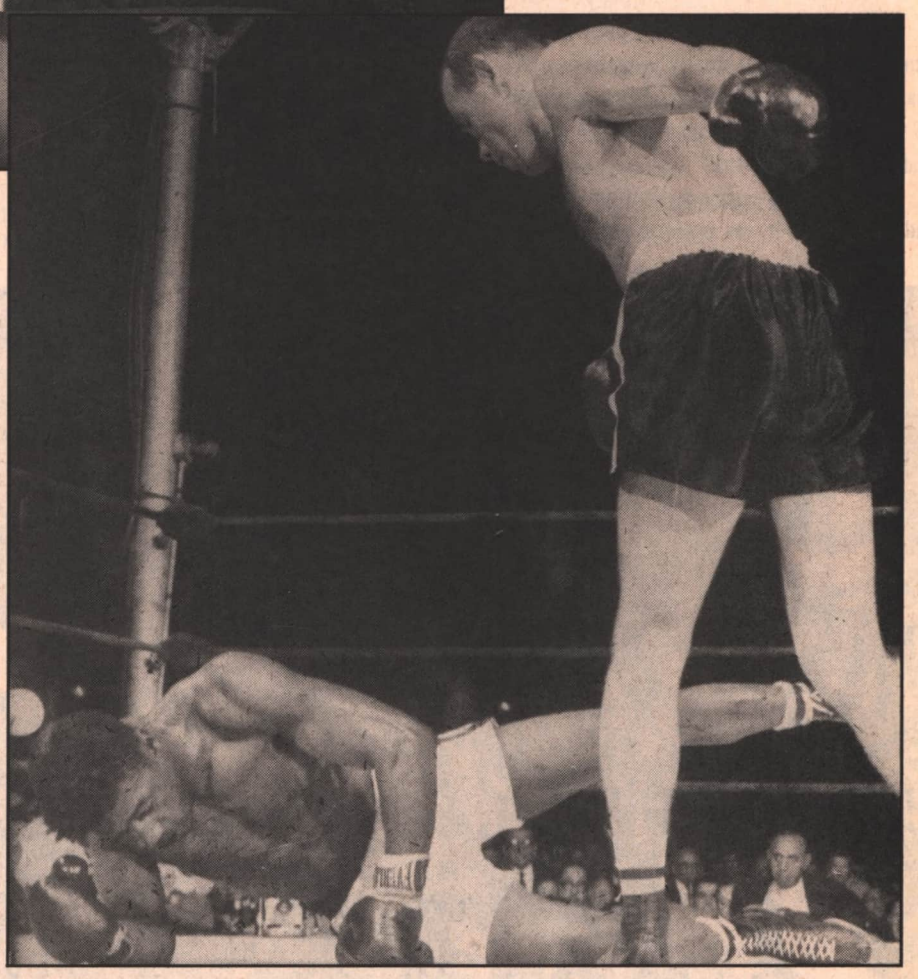
FLOYD PATTERSON-JINX-BREAKER?



Can ex-heavyweight champion succeed where all of his predecessors have failed? No heavyweight from Corbett on down has ever regained his throne

From THE RING, May 1960

Ingemar Johansson almost put heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson to sleep during their prefight press conference (left). In the ring, Patterson took a nap after being struck by the challenger's awesome right hand (below). Can Patterson become the first fighter in division history to regain the crown?



y Nat Loubet

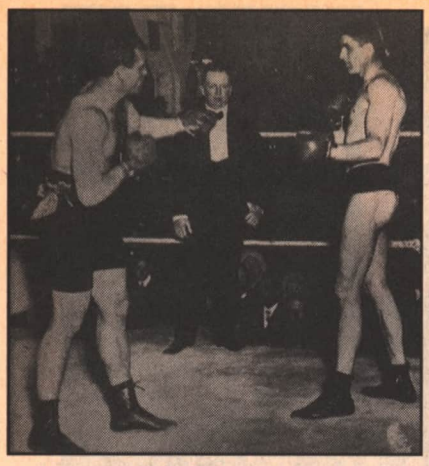
eature Sports Incorporated, the organization that has taken over the promotion of the Johansson-Patterson heavyweight mpionship fight, has taken a long time to ke known its plans for the summer shindig. the fault doesn't rest with its directorate. The of the State of New York must be followed he bout is to be staged within its territory. As go to press, the public has been assured the t will take place at the Polo Grounds of New rk, former home of the Giants Baseball Club, the date will be June 22, this despite the tinacy of Cus D'Amato, manager of erson. Though unlicensed in the State, Cus, are told, insists Patterson will not fight in w York unless Cus is reinstated as his nager.

That has been the big obstacle in Humbert ggy's failure to get the contracts signed and led for presentation to the Boxing mmission. But New York is the only logical e to stage the affair, as Johansson insists, and e he is in the driver's seat, we are assured the t will be staged as arranged and announced by ture Sports Inc.

It has been pointed out by Johansson in his rseas interviews that he is now the boss and t he and his adviser, Edwin Ahlquist, will ide where the scene of action will take place. nsson is finished with his U.N. exhibition appearances in the Gaza Strip and is determined to start his training. There is little doubt the fight will take place this June. And with that in mind, the betting gentry has begun action.

Smart money boys are making the odds, and like early bets on Derby winners, many good-sized wagers already have been made, in all of which Johansson figures the favorite. Unlike what had been expected, the present odds favor the champion only at 8-5, based on his TNT right that upset the apple cart in the last championship match. That isn't too much on which to base an opinion, but it is the lone point on which the odds can be made.

Johansson rode to fame on a one-round knockout of one of America's leading challengers, Eddie Machen. It was that kayo that quickly brought him the attention of the fistic

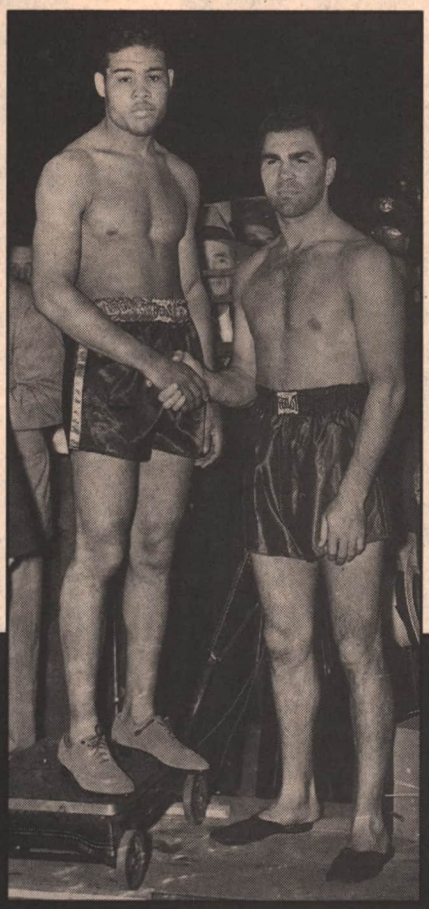


The first former heavyweight champion who attempted to regain the crown was Jim Corbett (above, right), who twice lost by stoppage to the dominant Jim Jeffries, in 1900 and 1903.

world and which eventually brought him the chance to win the world crown. Machen claimed he was caught cold. His mentor, Sid Flaherty, said it was "a lucky punch."

But the betting gentry pays off on victories, and in this case it was Ingemar who drew the public eye. His achievements prior to that great triumph were nothing over which to brag, but they were good enough to attract attention.

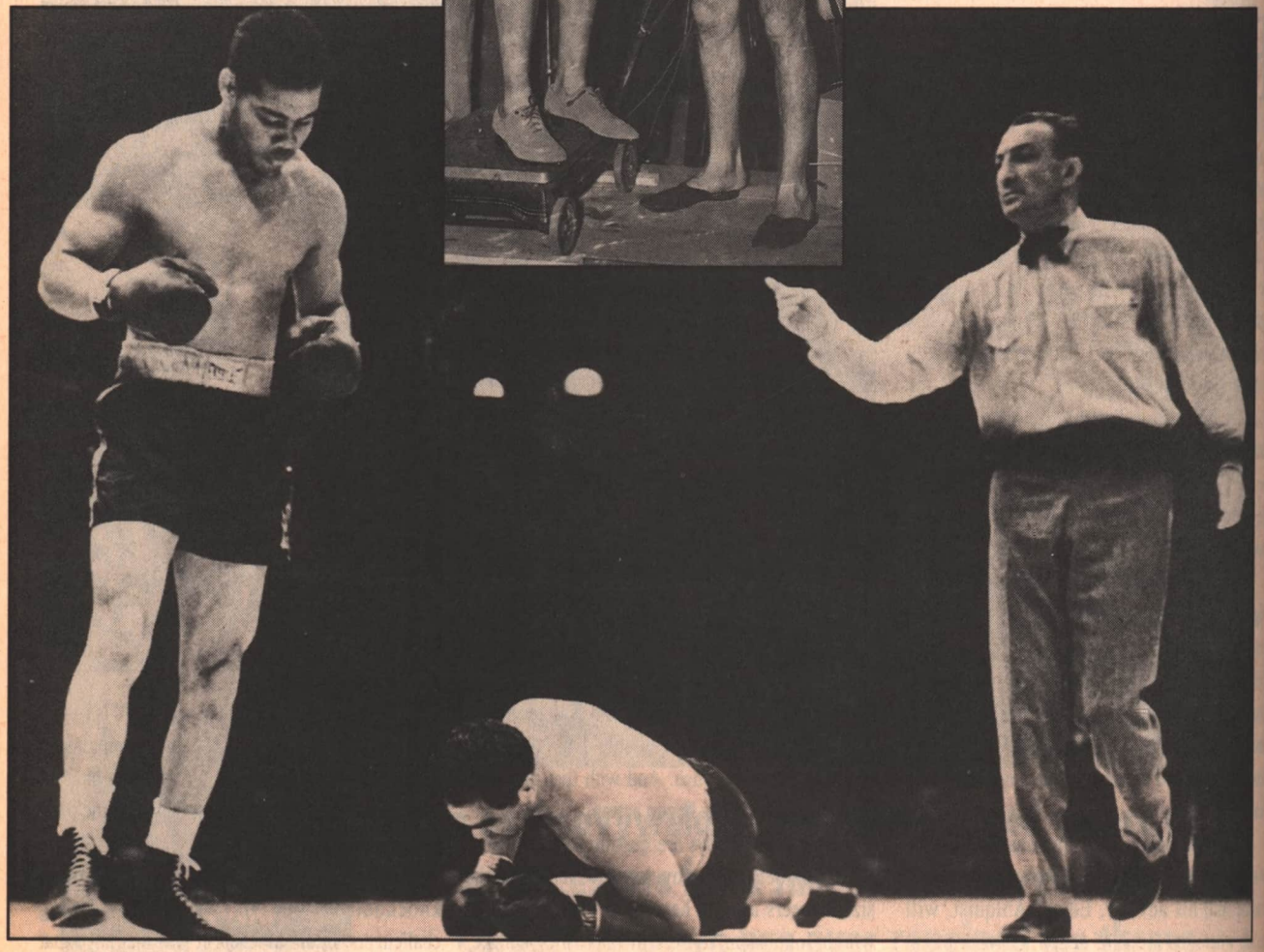
His knockout of Hein Ten Hoff in one round in 1955; his adequate handling of Franco Cavicchi of Italy, from whom he won the European title in 1956 in 13 rounds; his five-round knockout of Henry Cooper of England the following year; and his big year in 1958, when he neatly disposed of Joe Erskine in a European championship match, Heinz Neuhaus, and then Machen, all make pretty good reasons why he comes forth an early favorite.



Lacking further testimonials, some of the wise guys on the main stem yammer that Patterson might very easily become the favorite in man-to-man betting close to ring time. Such a situation, if it comes to pass, will be utterly without precedent in the annals of the heavyweight division.

Just why some of the thinkers want to risk their kopecs on Patterson's chances is hard to visualize. Floyd is certainly not renowned for his one-punch ability to flatten an opponent, unless "the boys" are worried about the lack of hard

Of the former champs who tried to win back the title, Max Schmeling suffered the cruelest fate. The weigh-in before his 1938 rematch with Joe Louis (left) lasted longer than the fight, with the German falling in 124 seconds (below).



training being put in by Ingo, a darling of the banquet and television circuits.

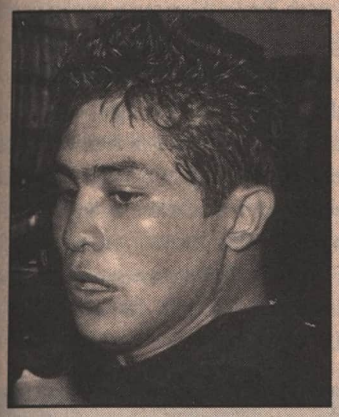
To counter this train of thought one must remember, or should we say not forget, that Ingo was thoroughly castigated by all writers covering his training operation at Grossinger's for his bout with Patterson. The result of that fight, in which Ingo knocked the crown off Patterson's head, should act as a caution.

As we go to press, Ingo definitely figures as the favorite. What happens as both men go into training and the contest comes closer remains to be seen. The odds will vary in accordance with one million intangibles.

***

Of some interest to those who control the interesting art of setting the odds will be the superstition that a jinx rides with any ex-

THE RING RATINGS, *May 1960*



Jose Becerra

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ingemar Johansson, Sweden

1. **Zora Folley**, Chandler, AZ
2. **Sonny Liston**, Philadelphia, PA
3. **Floyd Patterson**, Rockville Centre, NY
4. **Eddie Machen**, Redding, CA
5. **Henry Cooper**, England
6. **Roy Harris**, Cut and Shoot, TX
7. **Billy Hunter**, Detroit, MI
8. **Alex Miteff**, Argentina
9. **Mike DeJohn**, Syracuse, NY
10. **Joe Erskine**, Wales

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Archie Moore, San Diego, CA

1. **Harold Johnson**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Erich Schoppner**, Germany
3. **Mike Holt**, South Africa
4. **Chic Calderwood**, Scotland
5. **Sixto Rodriguez**, San Anselmo, CA
6. **Germinal Ballarin**, France
7. **Von Clay**, Philadelphia, PA
8. **Jesse Bowdry**, St. Louis, MO
9. **Giulio Rinaldi**, Italy
10. **Johnny Halafihi**, Tonga

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Paul Pender, Brookline, MA

1. **Ray Robinson**, New York, NY
2. **Gene Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
3. **Gustav Scholz**, Germany
4. **Henry Hank**, Detroit, MI
5. **Joey Giardello**, Philadelphia, PA
6. **Spider Webb**, Chicago, IL
7. **Dick Tiger**, Nigeria
8. **Carmen Basilio**, Canastota, NY
9. **Joey Giambra**, San Francisco, CA
10. **Holly Mims**, Washington, D.C.

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Don Jordan, Los Angeles, CA

1. **Luis Rodriguez**, Cuba
2. **Rudell Stitch**, Louisville, KY
3. **Ralph Dupas**, New Orleans, LA
4. **Benny Paret**, Cuba
5. **Charley Scott**, Philadelphia, PA
6. **Denny Moyer**, Portland, OR
7. **Federico Thompson**, Argentina
8. **Kenny Lane**, Muskegon, MI
9. **Sugar Hart**, Philadelphia, PA
10. **Emile Griffith**, New York, NY

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Brown, Baton Rouge, LA

1. **Carlos Ortiz**, New York, NY
2. **Paolo Rosi**, New York, NY
3. **Dave Charnley**, England
4. **Len Matthews**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Battling Torres**, Mexico
6. **Paul Armstead**, Los Angeles, CA
7. **Mario Vecchiato**, Italy
8. **Carlos Hernandez**, Venezuela
9. **Flash Elorde**, Philippines
10. **Alfredo Urbina**, Mexico

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Davey Moore, Springfield, OH

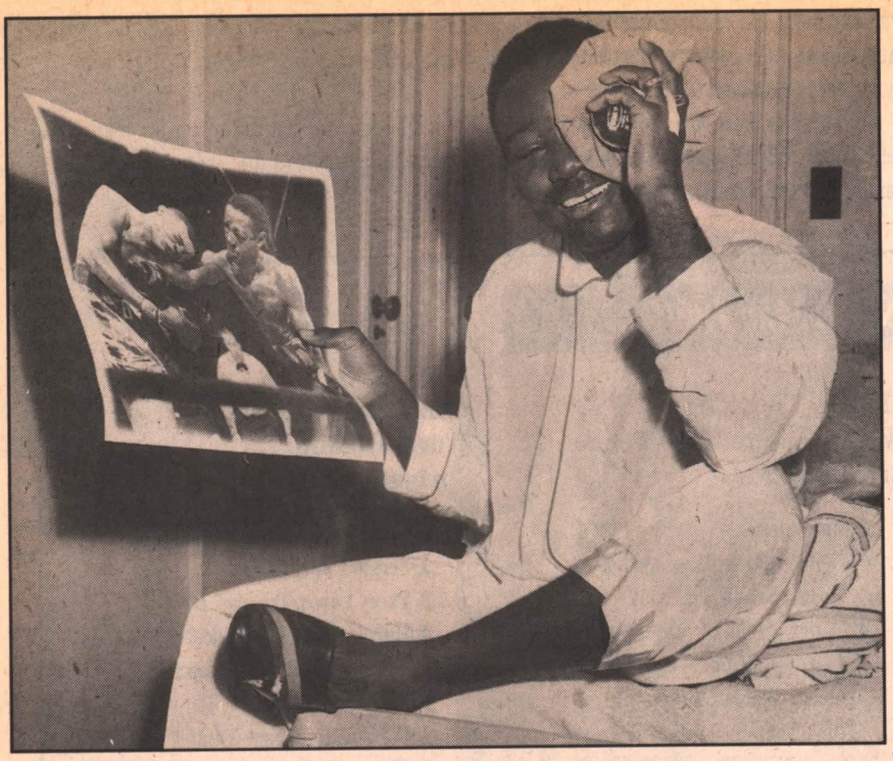
1. **Ricardo Gonzalez**, Argentina
2. **Sergio Caprari**, Italy
3. **Percy Lewis**, Trinidad, BWI
4. **Harold Gomes**, Providence, RI
5. **Gracieux Lamperti**, France
6. **Rafiu King**, Nigeria
7. **Ike Chestnut**, New York, NY
8. **Hogan (Kid) Bassey**, Nigeria
9. **Sugar Ramos**, Cuba
10. **Paul Jorgensen**, Port Arthur, TX

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Becerra, Mexico

1. **Alphonse Halimi**, France
2. **Freddie Gilroy**, Ireland
3. **Eder Jofre**, Brazil
4. **Piero Rollo**, Italy
5. **Leo Espinosa**, Philippines
6. **Jose Lopez**, Mexico
7. **Danny Kid**, Philippines
8. **Kenji Yonakuera**, Japan
9. **Ernesto Miranda**, Argentina
10. **Herman Marques**, Stockton, CA

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Pascual Perez, Argentina

1. **Pone Kingpetch**, Thailand
2. **Sadao Yaoita**, Japan
3. **Mimun Ben Ali**, Spain
4. **Dommy Ursua**, Philippines
5. **Hiram Bacallao**, Cuba
6. **Johnny Caldwell**, Ireland
7. **Ramon Arias**, Venezuela
8. **Risto Luukkonen**, Finland
9. **Nacho Escalante**, Mexico
10. **Ray Pacheco**, Reno, NV

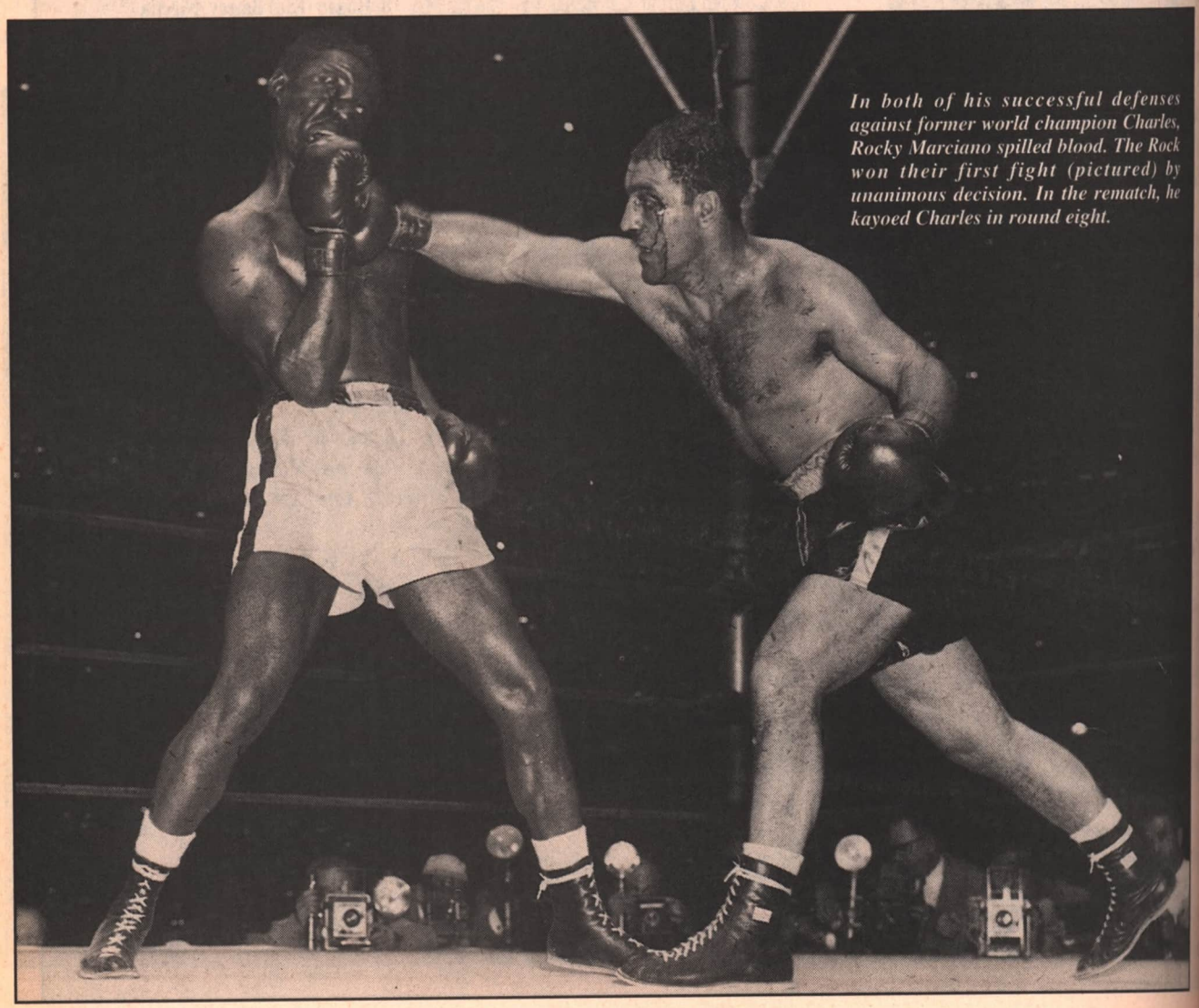


In 1950, Ezzard Charles took his lumps but managed to retain the title against a comebacking Joe Louis. At least "The Brown Bomber" lasted the distance.

heavyweight champ attempting to regain his title. There is a good reason for this: It has never been accomplished.

Jim Corbett had two chances to regain the throne but failed each time. Ezzard Charles had three chances, once with Jersey Joe Walcott and twice with Rocky Marciano, but didn't come through.

Both Corbett and Charles came close. Jim was ahead on points in his fight with Jeffries as far out as the 23rd round in their Coney Island battle. Then his legs went out—and so did Corbett. Which was as close as he ever came to making it big again. In their second meeting, in San Francisco, Corbett never came close, and Jeffries belted him into oblivion in the 10th round.



In both of his successful defenses against former world champion Charles, Rocky Marciano spilled blood. The Rock won their first fight (pictured) by unanimous decision. In the rematch, he kayoed Charles in round eight.

Ezzard had his first chance at regaining the throne in Philadelphia against ersey Joe Walcott. The bout went the full 15 rounds, with Ezz coming real se. Factually, the last round of the fight decided the outcome—against harles.

Ezzard then had two cracks at regaining the title from Rocky Marciano. he first encounter went to Rocky on a 15-round decision, with Ezz a mass f lumps and bumps at the conclusion. But it was in their second meeting hat Charles looked like he would succeed in breaking the jinx hovering over heavyweights trying to regain the crown.

Although knocked down in the second, Charles as late as the sixth was marked and looking strong. Marciano was ahead on points, but suddenly harles was dealt an ace right off the top of the deck. A sock to rciano's beak left a crack dropping blood. Ezz was so quick to seize his hance and peppered away at the crimson blob that quickly turned into a od of claret.

Marciano's crown was balanced by a small hair. Further damage to his se, pouring a torrent of red gop, would most certainly cause the referee to tervene. Rocky, when asked after the contest if he had been worried about e damage to the nose, replied, "You bet it had me thinking. I was afraid y would stop it, and there'd she blow."

Notwithstanding that "there she did not blow," the seventh round was e of torture for champ Marciano, who forced the issue, winning the round spite repeated smashes to his injured proboscis.

The fact remains that his nose was steadily getting worse, and ringsiders re tense with expectancy.

The eighth round started with Charles looking tired, but steadily moving Marciano's nose. Then it happened: A worried Marciano leaped forward d punched his way right through Ezzard's guard. He battered Charles to floor, where he remained for the 10-count. The jinx was upheld.

Quite a few heavyweight champs got a single shot at the recovery bit: n Fitzsimmons, Jim Jeffries, Jack Dempsey, Max Schmeling, Jersey Joe lcott, and Joe Louis.

Close observers point to the parallel between the Charles-Marciano t and Patterson's return engagement with Johansson. Patterson, a top er with fair punching ability and not too much catching stamina, is miniscent of the fancy-boxing Charles, who has passable sock. By mparing Marciano and Johansson, the prototype is not completely ssuring.

Like Marciano, Johansson has a right-hand punch that carries authority, Johansson's ability to take it is a quality that cannot be assayed as easily as Rocky's.

Can Patterson break the jinx riding on the shoulder of each ex-yweight king who attempted to win back the crown? The chances aren't bright, yet he can do it. He's clever and can hit, though not with the er of Johansson.

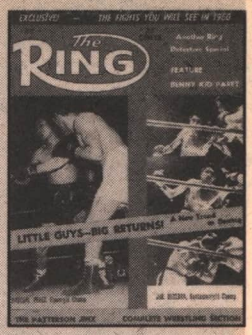
Johansson, discussing his prospects and commentating on criticism ently on TV, said, "I think I win, but Patterson is not to be judged too kly."

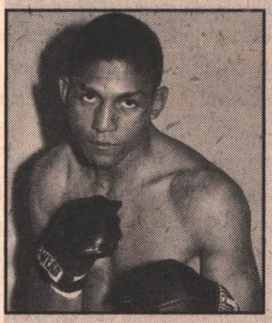
Patterson has said, "I have watched films of our first fight and saw where de mistakes, and I also saw many errors made by Johansson. I won't be ing those same mistakes when we fight again."

Patterson's big mistake was getting hit on the jaw by Ingo's big Five. Floyd spotted some weakness that will enable him to become the first yweight in the world to rewin the title? Patterson indicates confidence. declares he is certain he can. Ingo says he can't. ■

THE RING, May 1960

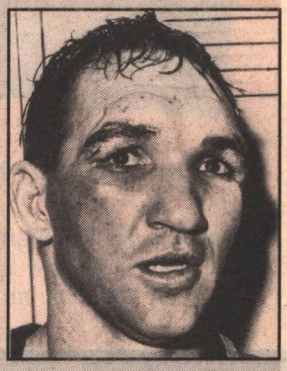
The Cover: In recognition of the lighter weights, the cover features flyweight titlist Pascual Perez, who, pound for pound, is among the best fighters in the world, and bantamweight king Joe Becerra, who captured the title by surprising Alphonse Halimi. In his cover story, Jersey Jones bemoans the fact that flys and banties are "virtually extinct in the United States."

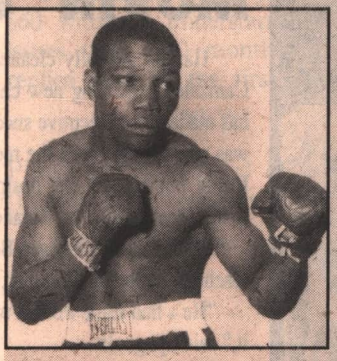




Kayoed? No Big Deal: According to Al Buck, welterweight champion Don Jordan (pictured), a kayo victim in a non-title bout vs. Federico Thompson, needn't worry. Many great fighters have suffered kayos and rebounded without difficulty, including Sugar Ray Robinson, Benny Leonard, Joe Louis, and Jack Johnson.

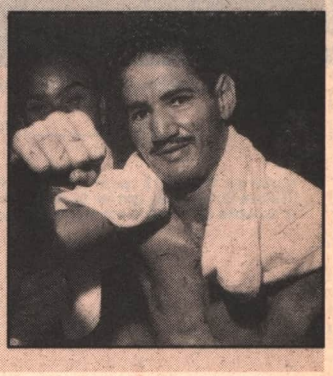
The Crystal Ball: Lew Eskin looks at some of the matchups that figure to spice the remainder of 1960. Among the fights, only some of which would materialize: Pascual Perez vs. Pone Kingpetch, Paul Pender vs. Sugar Ray Robinson II, Archie Moore vs. Erich Schoppner, Gene Fullmer (pictured) vs. Joey Giardello, Joe Becerra vs. Eder Jofre, and Joe Brown vs. Carlos Ortiz.





Benny The Kid: Fred Eisenstadt profiles fourth-rated welterweight contender Benny Paret, a young Cuban who seems destined to win a world title. The fight that proved Paret was likely to realize his potential came toward the end of 1959, when, as a 5-1 underdog, he dropped and decisioned number-one contender Charley Scott at Madison Square Garden.

Fighter Of The Month: Carlos Hernandez not only stopped featherweight champion Davey Moore in a non-title bout in Caracas, but he dropped him three times and broke his jaw. Other fighters who received consideration: welterweight Emile Griffith, who topped Denny Moyer, and heavyweight Sonny Liston, who crushed Cleveland Williams.



Looking Ahead

By Steve Farhood

KING'S LATEST FLING

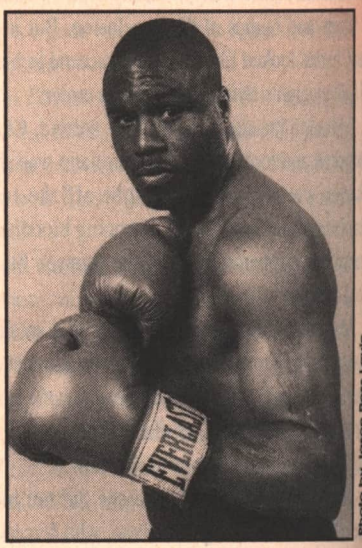


Photo by Jason Ross Levin

Taylor: Ready for revenge

Not every show can be an all-timer, so we're giving Don King a bit of slack on this one. On September 17, he'll be running a pay-per-view card in Las Vegas, featuring either four or five world title fights. Headlining will be WBC super lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez vs. Meldrick Taylor in a rematch that has materialized four years too late. Taylor wasn't the first choice; King wanted to make a unification battle between Chavez and WBA 140-pound champion Juan Coggi, but according to Al Braverman, King's director of boxing, "We can't budge [Coggi] on money."

The best fight on the card will be IBF welterweight champion Felix Trinidad defending against unbeaten Mexican contender Yori Boy Campas. Now for the excess baggage: WBC super welterweight champion Terry Norris will defend against 35-year-old Luis Santana, who, from September 1988 through September 1992, won one of nine fights. And WBC middleweight champion Gerald McClellan, apparently not yet ready to jump to 168 pounds, will defend against uninspiring Ecuadorian Segundo Mercado. As we went to press, a fifth title fight, WBC super featherweight champion Jesse James Leija vs. Gabriel Ruelas, was a possibility.

King had hoped to promote the card at the MGM Grand, but Dennis Finfrock, the hotel's vice president of special events, rejected it, calling Chavez-Taylor "unsuitable." As we went to press, it wasn't clear whether King would attempt to move the card to another site.

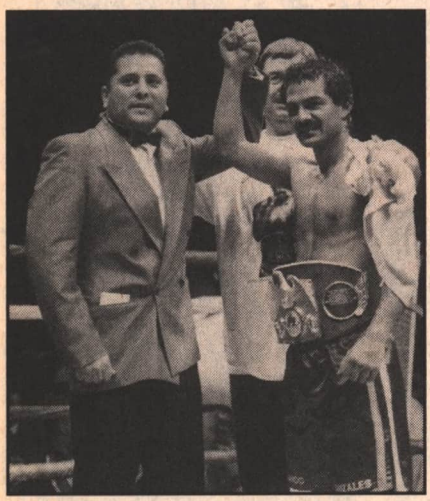


Photo by Noel Rivera

Canizales: Seeking new challenges

MOVIN' ON UP

Having virtually cleaned out the bantamweight division, or at least the IBF's version, Orlando Canizales is seeking new challenges. The longest-reigning 118-pound champion in history, Canizales has made 15 consecutive successful defenses, which ties Manuel Ortiz for the all-time division mark. He was planning to break the record with an ABC-televised defense in July against 1992 Olympian Sergio Reyes, but the bout was postponed after Canizales failed to sufficiently recover from sore hands suffered in his June defense vs. Rolando Bohol.

According to manager Bob Spagnola, the Texan's defense against Reyes, which will probably be rescheduled for late-summer, could be his last. Canizales is considering a jump to junior featherweight.

"He's had some trouble making 118 pounds, though summertime in Laredo [Texas], he could still do it," said Spagnola.

Spagnola said Canizales would not necessarily try for the IBF title, which is held by the division's best fighter, Kennedy McKinney. "[WBA champion] Wilfredo Vasquez is very well thought of, and [WBC champion] Tracy Patterson is a fight [matchmaker] Johnny Bos tried to make years ago," he said. "That might be the direction we'll go."

LISTEN UP

As we went to press, IBF super middleweight champion **James Toney** was scheduled to defend against **Prince Charles Williams**. If Toney is victorious, it was assumed he'd defend against IBF middleweight titlist **Roy Jones** in a pay-per-view card on October 1. Now we can't be sure. On July 5, Team Jones filed suit in Federal District Court against promoter **Bob Arum**. "We *really* want the fight," said Jones' manager, **Stan Levin**. While Levin said he wasn't permitted to discuss the suit, he added, "I hope the fight takes place October 1." ■

Now Every Boxing Fan Can Afford A Ringside Seat

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Photo by Jason Ross Lovin

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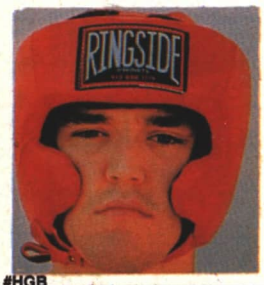

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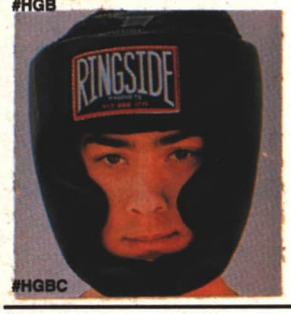

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